

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 48

14p



KING ROBOT

STARBLAZER



BY 2282 ALL THE DRUDGERY HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT OF WORK. CYBORGS, ANDROIDS AND COMPUTER CONTROLLED MACHINES PERFORMED EACH AND EVERY TASK IN THE HOME AND FACTORY. BORED BY ORDINARY ROBOTS, KURT PROSPERO EXPERIMENTED WITH GENETIC ENGINEERING—AND PRODUCED THE FIRST ROBOT WITH A FULL RANGE OF HUMAN EMOTIONS. GOVERNMENTAL HEADS, WARY OF A ROBOT TAKE-OVER, BANNED PROSPERO'S EXPERIMENTS. INCENSED, PROSPERO DISAPPEARED FROM EARTH TO CONTINUE HIS WORK.

KING ROBOT

JUNE 2299, IN THE OPERATIONS CENTRE OF SPACEFORTRESS Z-11, COMMANDER KENNEDY GAVE THE CREW OF THE BATTLECRUISER 'ANUBIS' DETAILS OF A MISSION... CAPTAIN GARY MATIC, LIEUTENANT SAM ELIOT AND SCIENCE OFFICER BEN DARWIN WERE ORDERED TO INVESTIGATE DISTURBANCES NEAR OLYMPUS, IN VECTOR DD2 1BH.

GALACTIC INTELLIGENCE TELL US THAT PROSPERO MAY BE IN THIS AREA. FIND OUT IF THE ACTIVITY HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH PROSPERO.

YES, SIR!

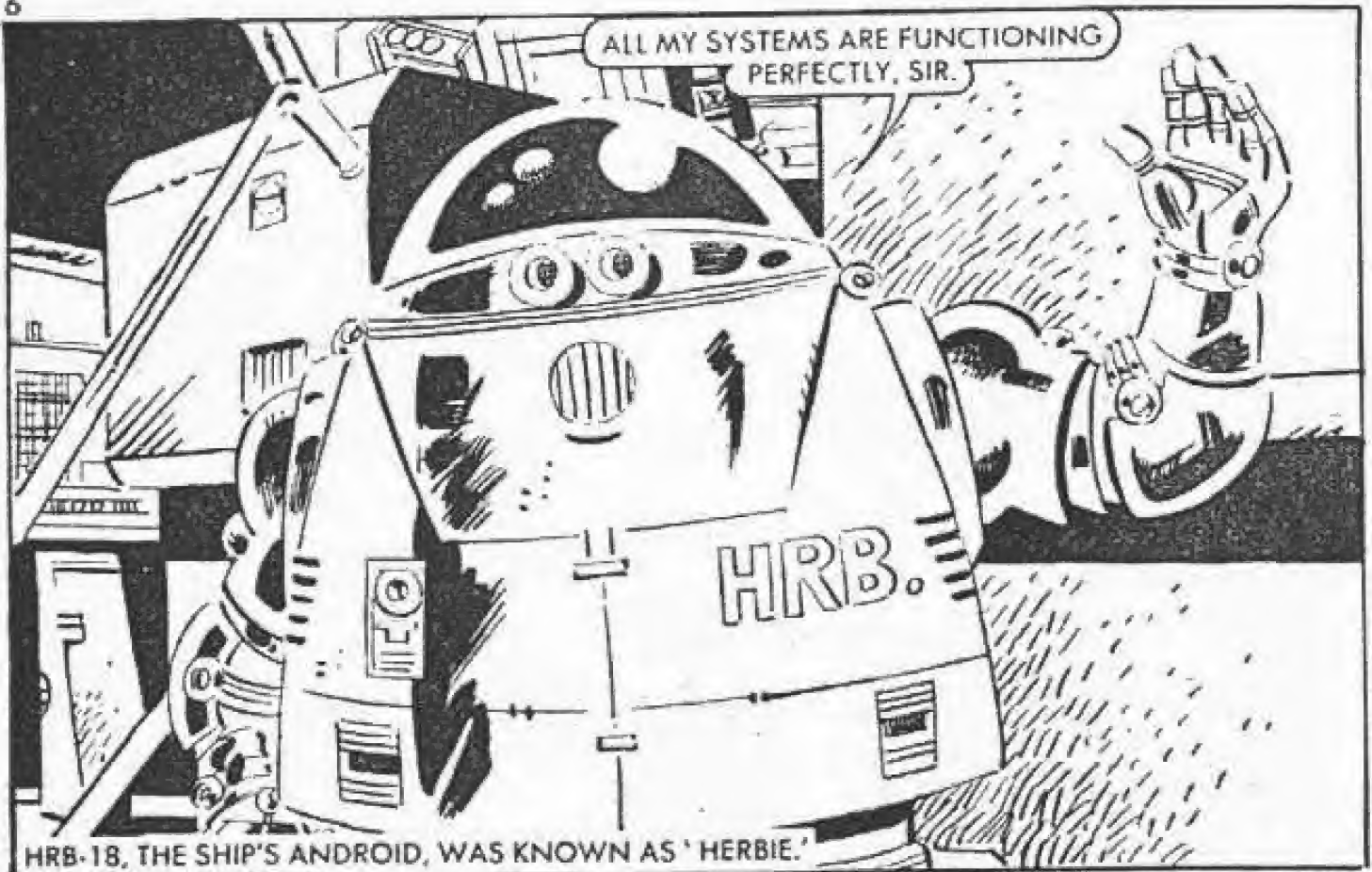


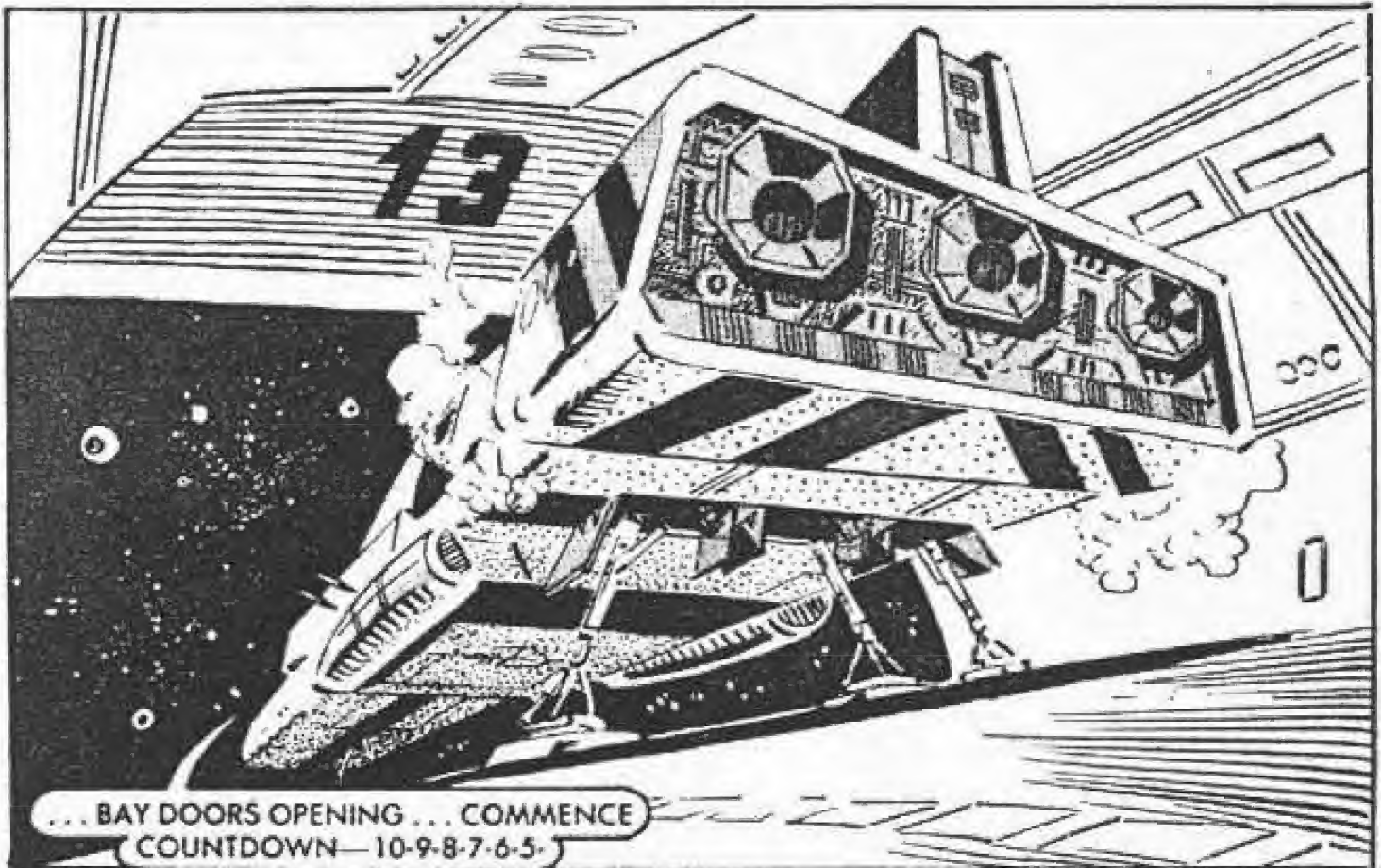




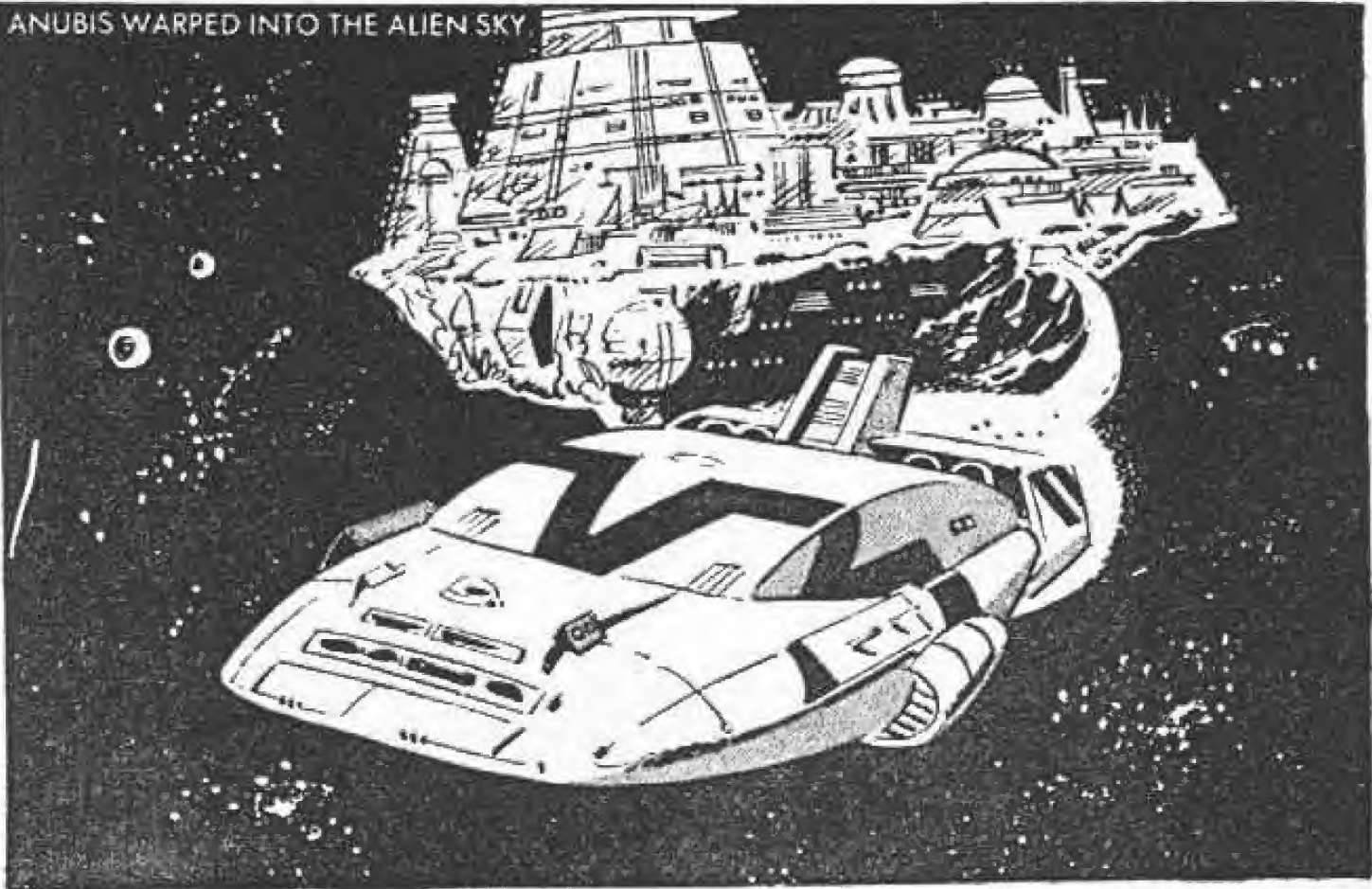
A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE CREW WERE ON THE BRIDGE OF THEIR BATTLECRUISER—ANUBIS.

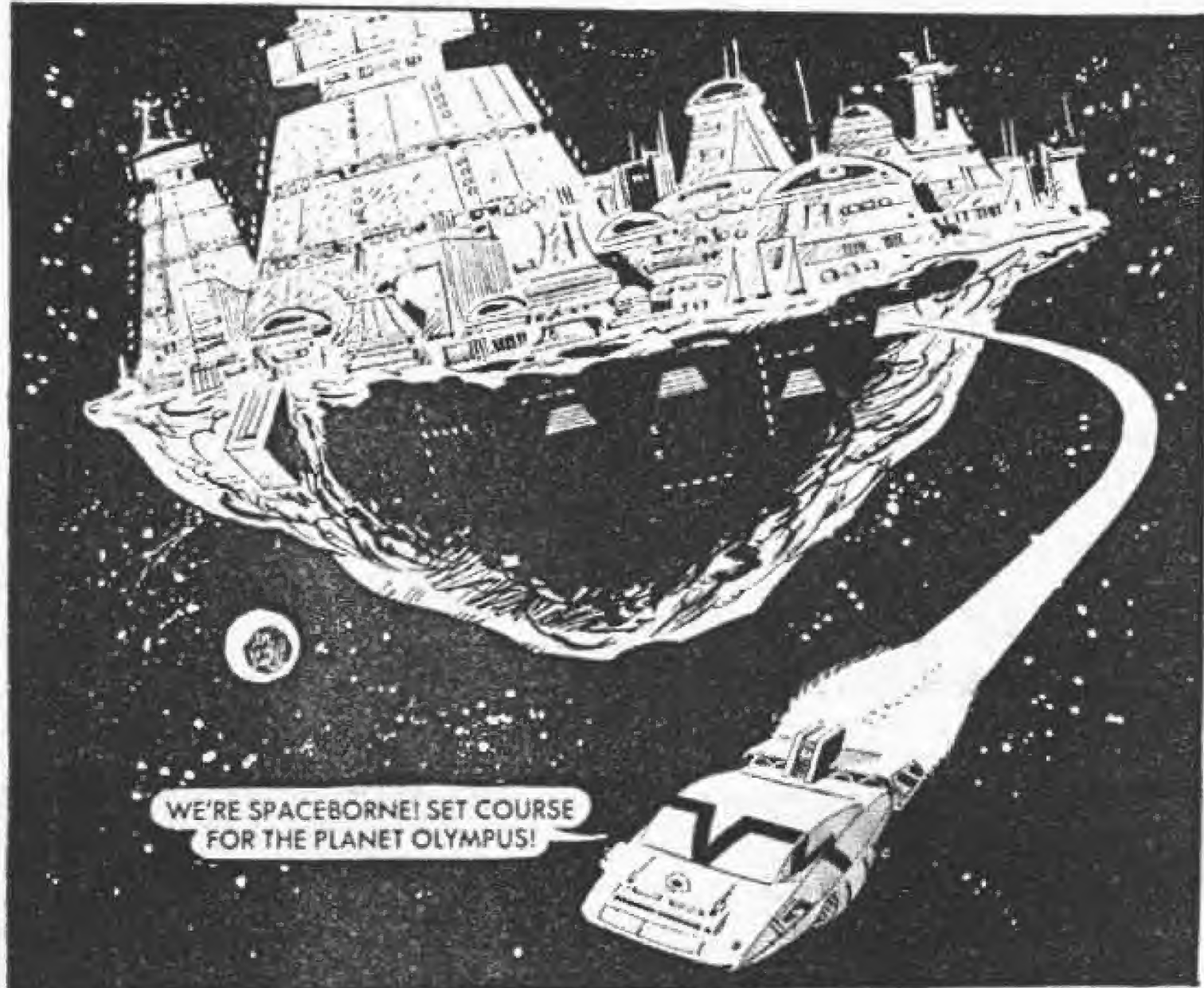




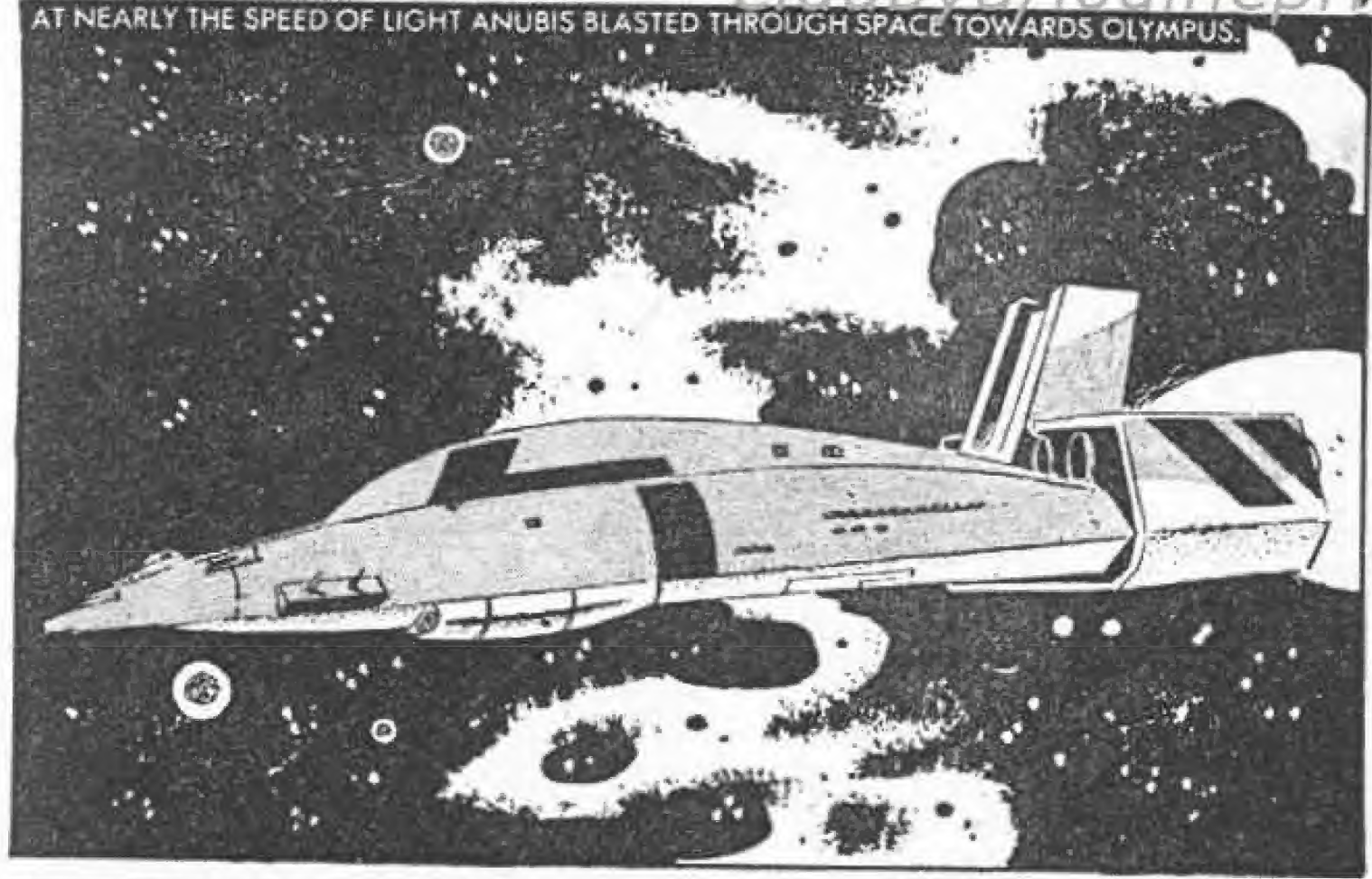


ANUBIS WARPED INTO THE ALIEN SKY





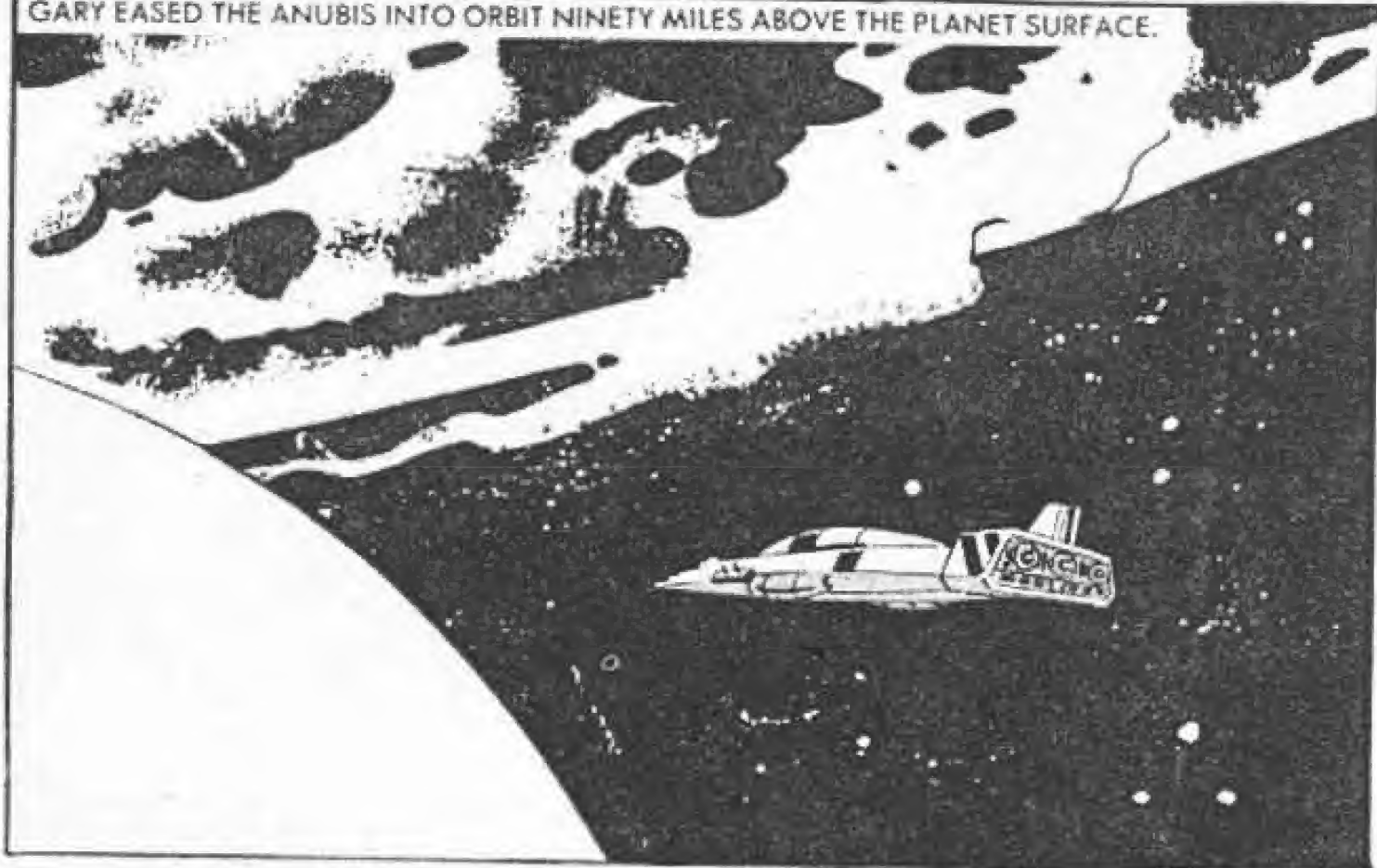
AT NEARLY THE SPEED OF LIGHT ANUBIS BLASTED THROUGH SPACE TOWARDS OLYMPUS.

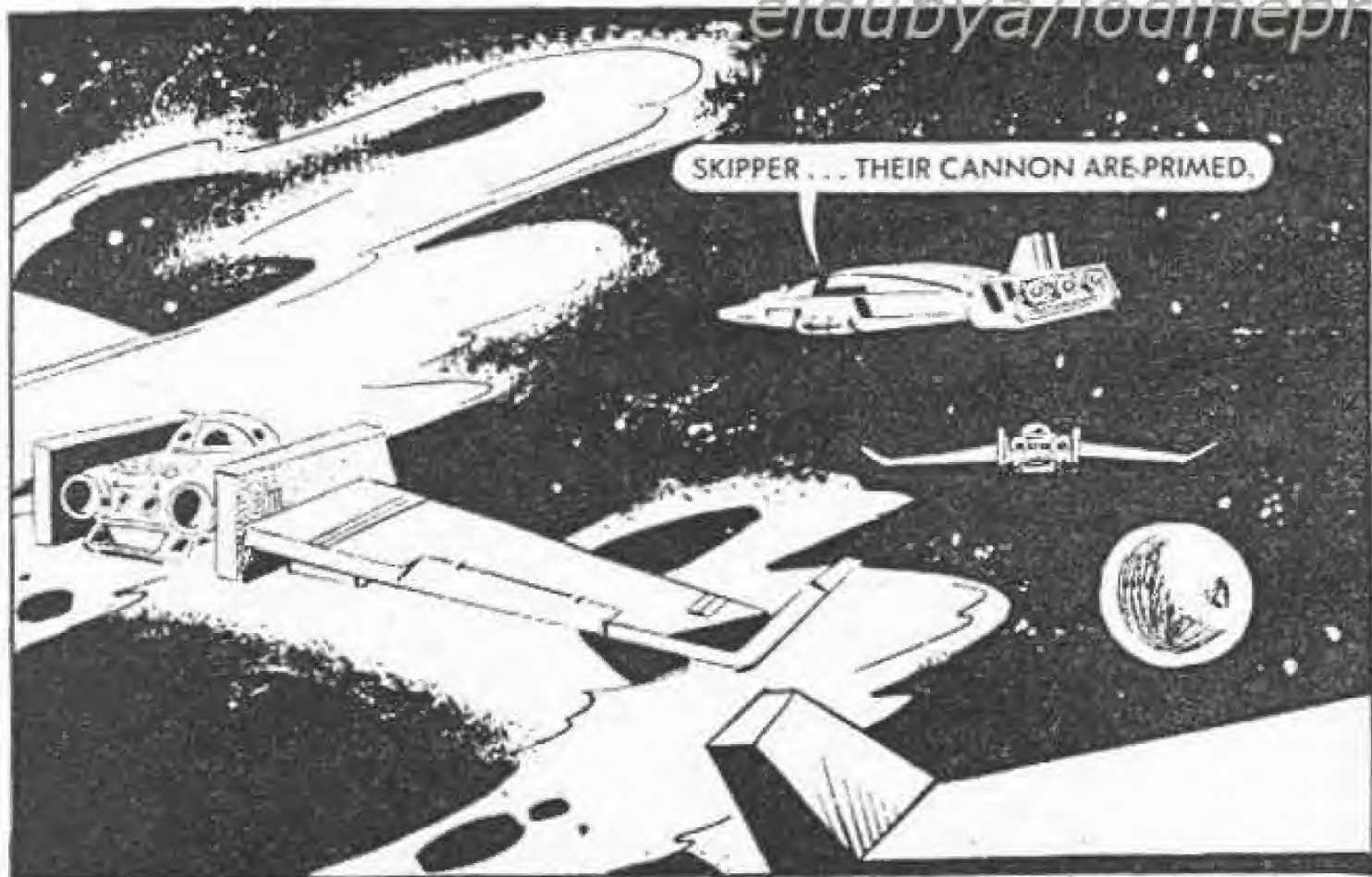


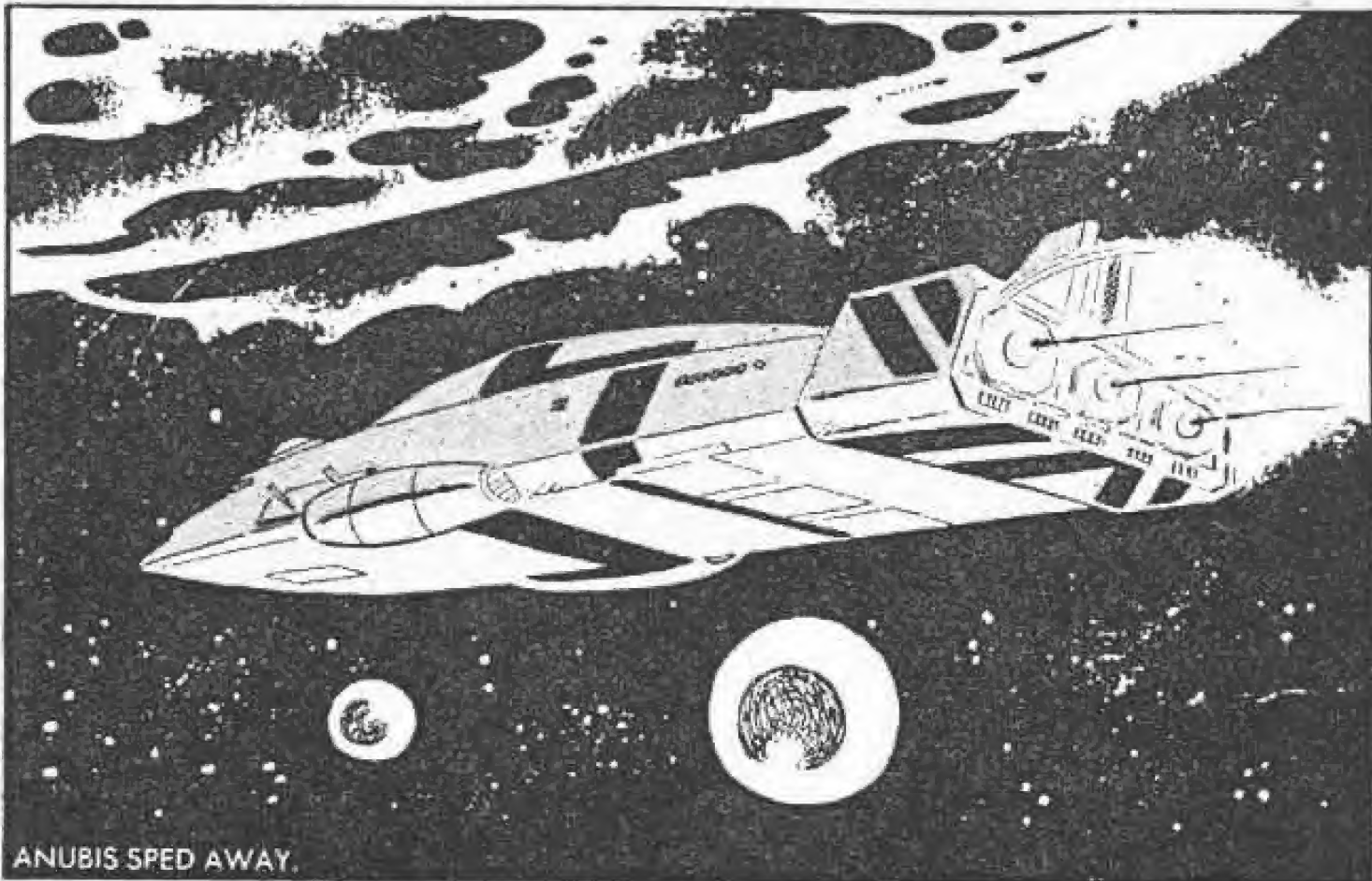
AT LAST! THERE IT IS! WE'LL GO IN, MAKE A COUPLE OF ORBITS AND LOOK FOR ANY SIGNS OF LIFE.

RIGHT, GARY. I'LL ACTIVATE ALL GROUND SCANNERS.

GARY EASED THE ANUBIS INTO ORBIT NINETY MILES ABOVE THE PLANET SURFACE.







ANUBIS SPED AWAY.



IDENTIFY YOURSELF, OR WE ATTACK!



GARY OPENED A CHANNEL TO THE FORMATION LEADER—



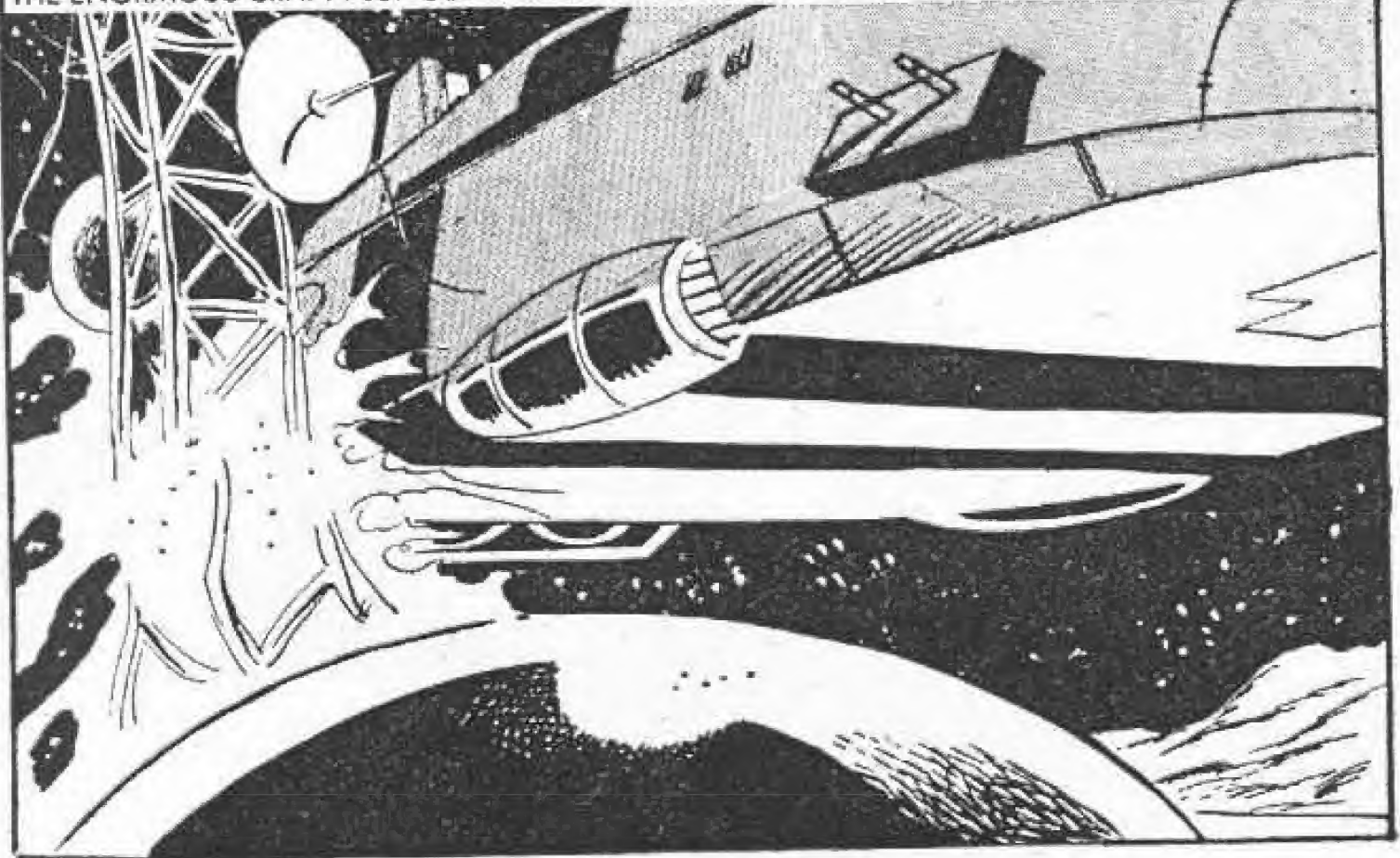








THE ENORMOUS CRAFT PLUNGED DOWNWARDS AS GARY APPLIED THE ANTIGRAV MOTORS.





THE ANUBIS LANDED.

I'VE INSTRUCTED HERBIE TO
COMPILE A DAMAGE REPORT ...

SKIPPER! TAKE A LOOK AT
THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE!

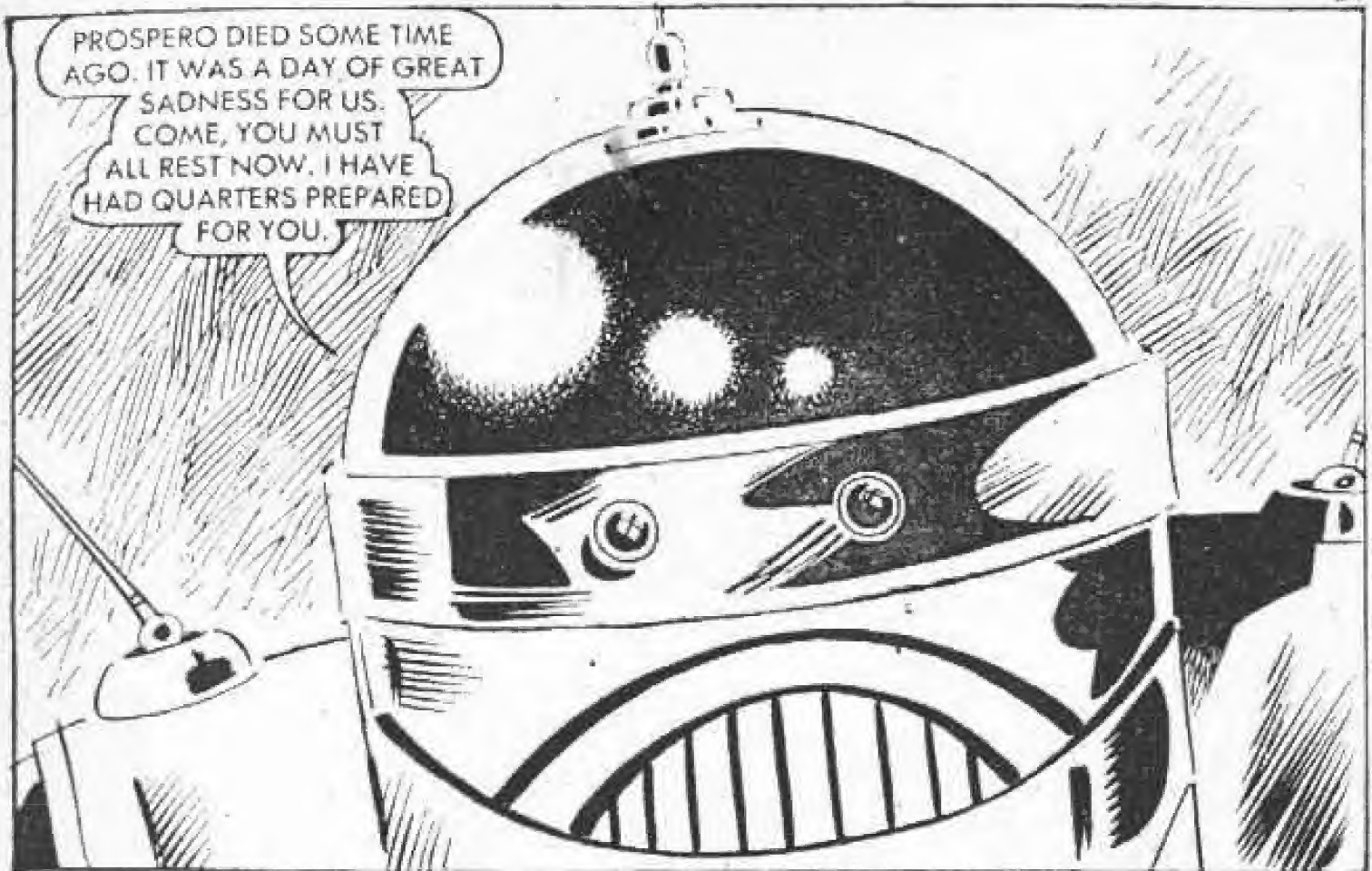
THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE WAS A GROUP OF VERY ADVANCED ANDROIDS AND ROBOTS.

GREETINGS, GENTLEMEN. I AM GOLEM.
THERE IS A FAILURE IN THE GUIDANCE
BEAM. HOWEVER, YOU ARE ALL
UNHARMED. WELCOME TO OLYMPUS.



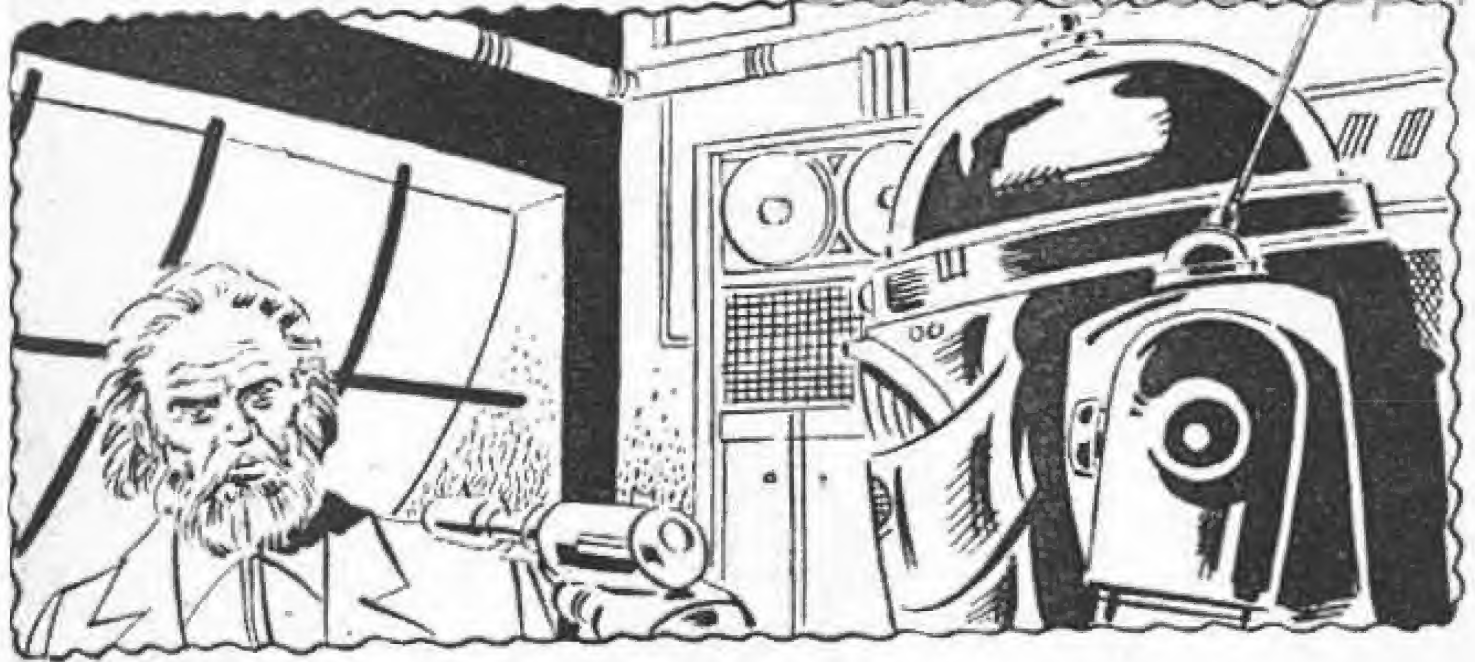
GOLEM TOOK THEM TO THE CITY CENTREPOINT.





LATER—





PROSPERO THOUGHT HE COULD CONTROL US... TREAT US LIKE SLAVES.
BUT HE HAD BUILT ALL THE HUMAN EMOTIONS INTO US AND WE REBELLED! THE
CYBEREPUBLIC WAS BORN, AND WITH IT OUR DESTINY—
TO RULE THE UNIVERSE!

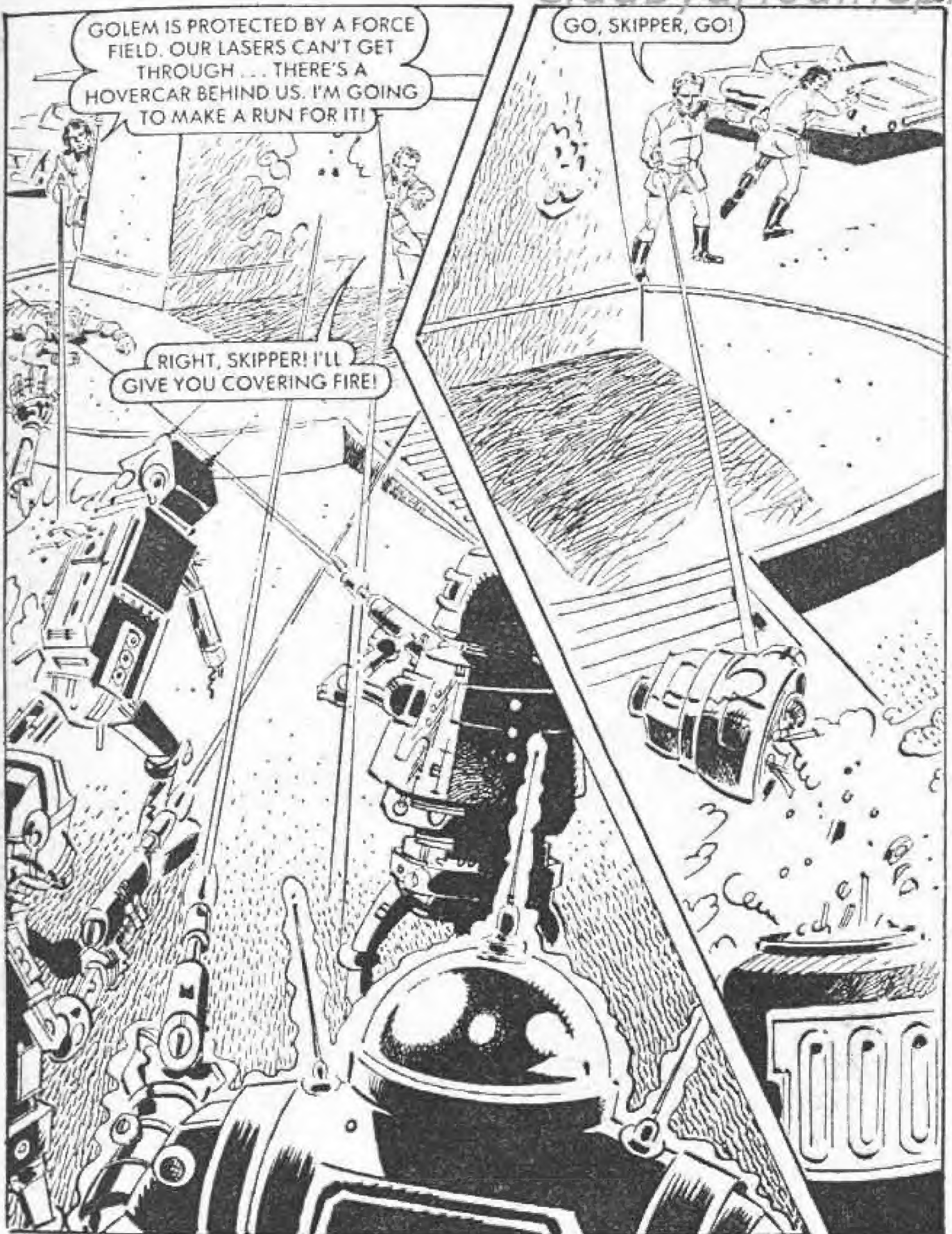




GOLEM IS PROTECTED BY A FORCE FIELD. OUR LASERS CAN'T GET THROUGH ... THERE'S A HOVERCAR BEHIND US. I'M GOING TO MAKE A RUN FOR IT!

RIGHT, SKIPPER! I'LL GIVE YOU COVERING FIRE!

GO, SKIPPER, GO!





THE TWO MEN JUMPED ABOARD THE HOVERCAR AND SPED AWAY.



THE HUMANS IN OUR CITY
MUST BE DESTROYED!

WE'LL HEAD FOR THE EDGE OF THE
CITY, SAM. THERE MUST BE A WAY
DOWN THIS MOUNTAIN TO THE SHIP.

AS GARY AND SAM SEARCHED FOR AN ESCAPE ROUTE, THEY DID NOT SEE THE DANGER BEHIND!



SKIPPER! RIGHT BEHIND
US! LOOK OUT!

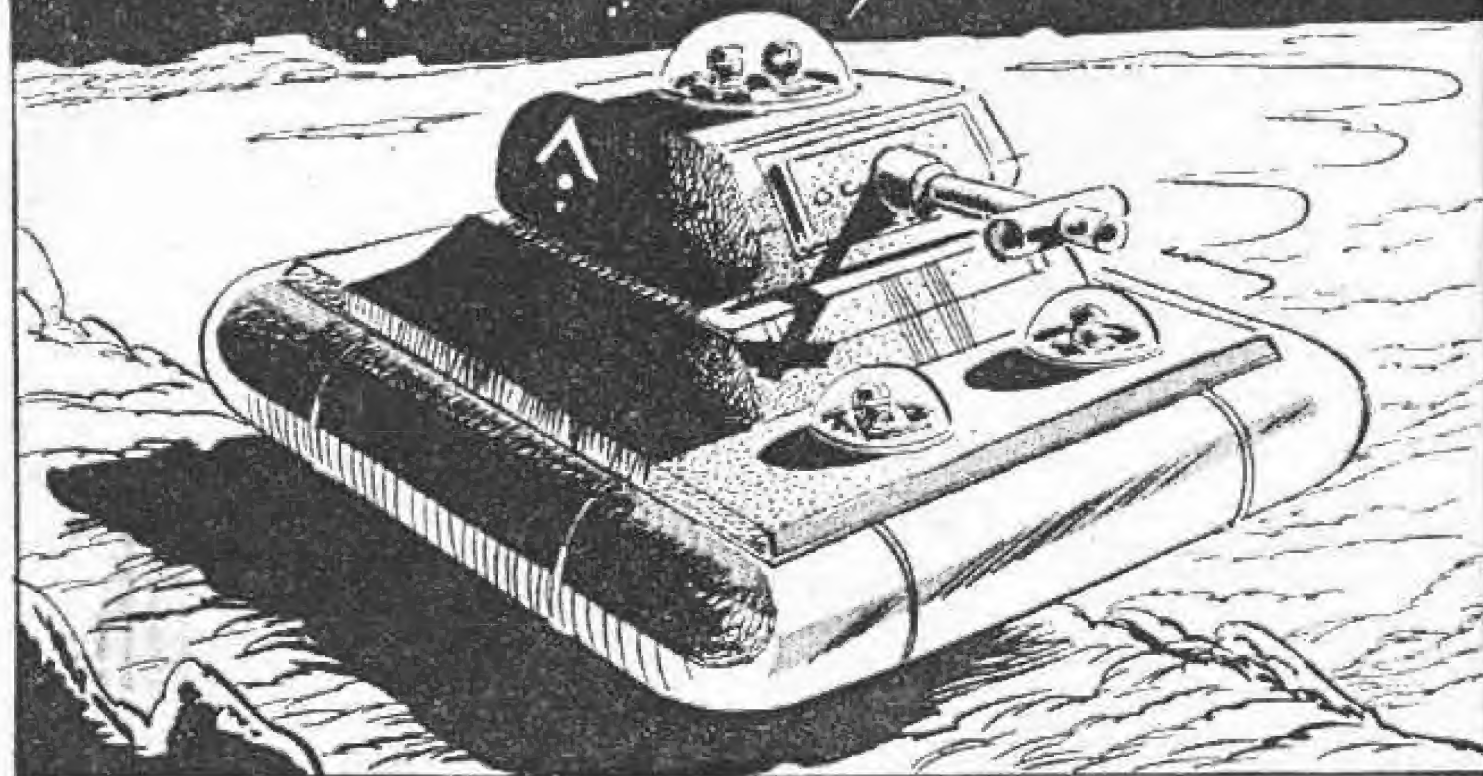
THAT BLAST HAS DESTROYED THE
DIRECTIONAL MOTORS! WE'RE
HEADING FOR THE EDGE! JUMP,
SAMI!





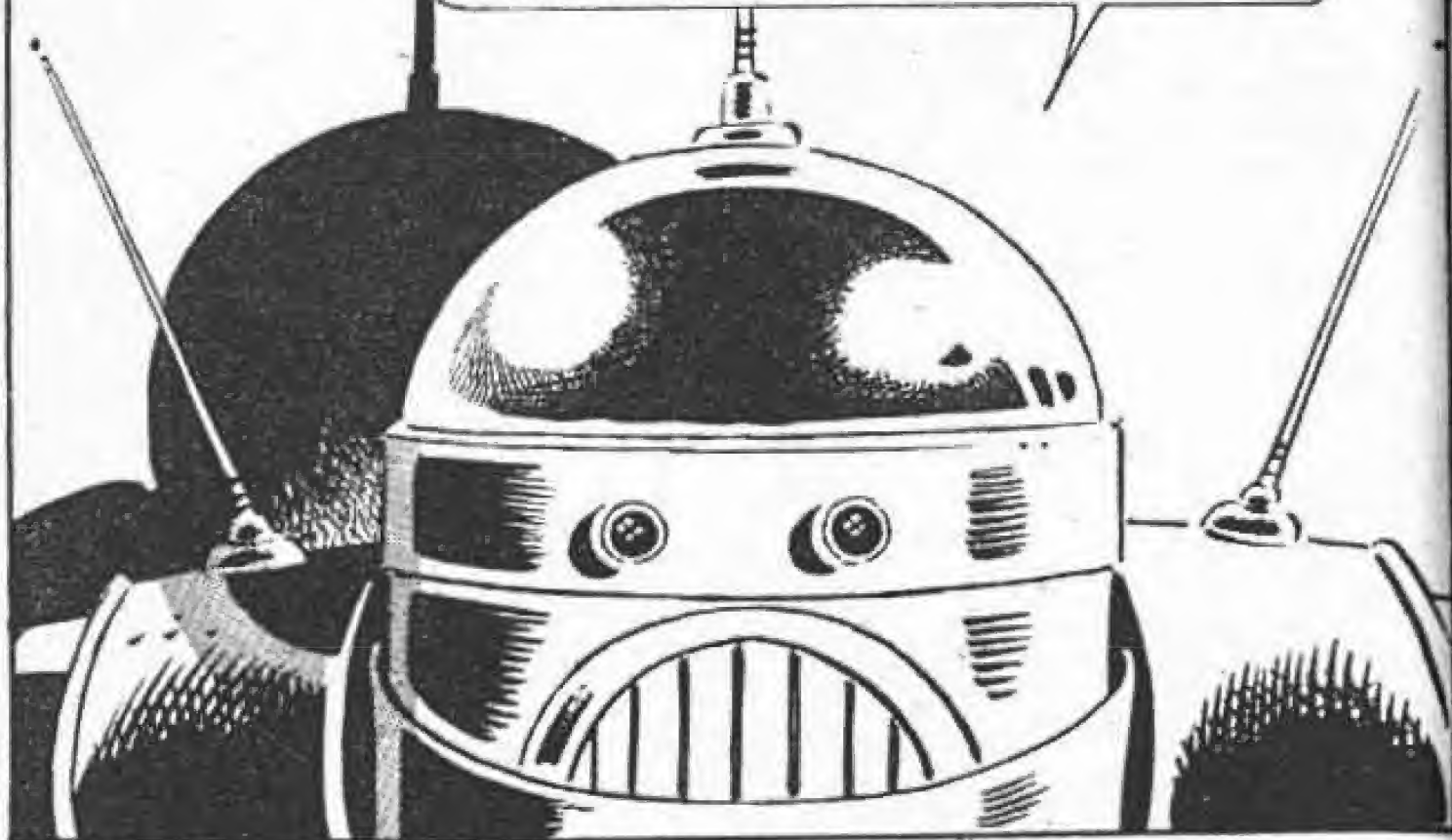
THE KILLER DROIDS CHECKED THE CLIFF TOP.

THE HUMANS CANNOT HAVE SURVIVED THAT FALL. WE MUST REPORT TO GOLEM AT ONCE. HE WILL BE PLEASED THAT ALL THE HUMANS ARE DEAD.





SOON I WILL BE READY TO LEAD THE FIRST CAMPAIGN OF MY WAR
AGAINST MANKIND — ATTACK ON SPACEFORTRESS Z-11!



AS DAWN BROKE—

JUST ANOTHER TWO HUNDRED FEET ...
I'D BETTER HURRY!





GARY FOUND WHAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR.

THAT FOREST WILL GIVE ME A
HIDING PLACE. THEN, TONIGHT, I'LL
HIT THE DROIDS ... HARD!

IF GOLEM THINKS WE'RE ALL DEAD,
HE'LL PROBABLY REDUCE THE
NUMBER OF GUARDS AROUND THE
LANDING SITE. MAYBE, I'LL BE ABLE
TO GUN MY WAY INTO MY SHIP!

GARY! GARY! WHERE ARE YOU?

W... WHAT?

THAT'S SAM'S VOICE... BUT IT
CAN'T BE... HE'S DEAD!

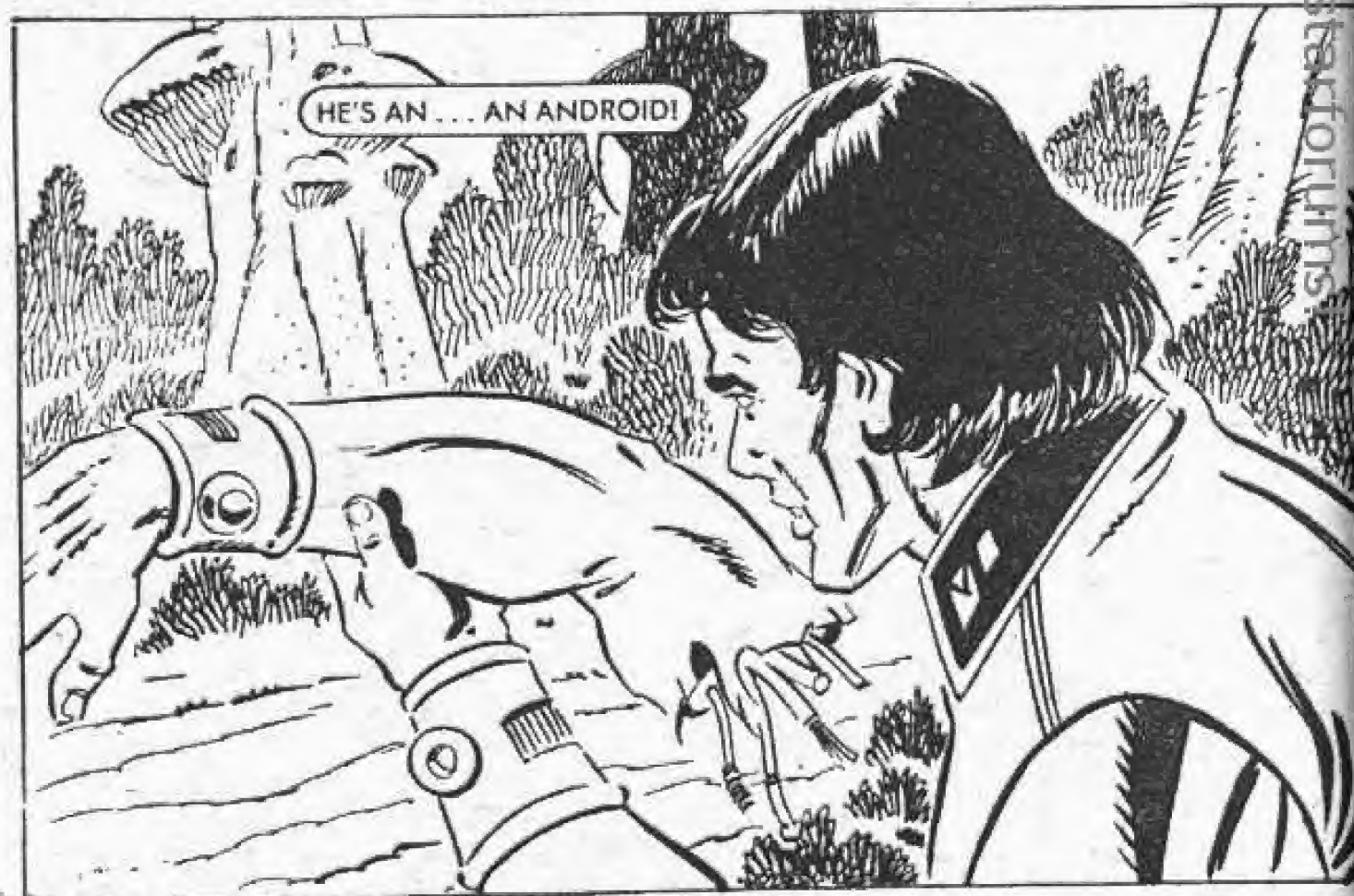
GARY FOLLOWED THE DIRECTION OF THE VOICE.











THE ANDROID LAUNCHED HIMSELF AT SAM.



NOW, HUMAN... I
SHALL TERMINATE YOU!








IN A CONTROL ROOM IN THE ROBOT CITY...




A black and white comic book panel. On the left, a large, metallic, dome-shaped head of an android is shown, appearing damaged with a jagged opening at the bottom. On the right, a man with dark hair, wearing a military uniform with a high collar and epaulettes, looks on with a serious expression. The background shows a building with windows and a flag.

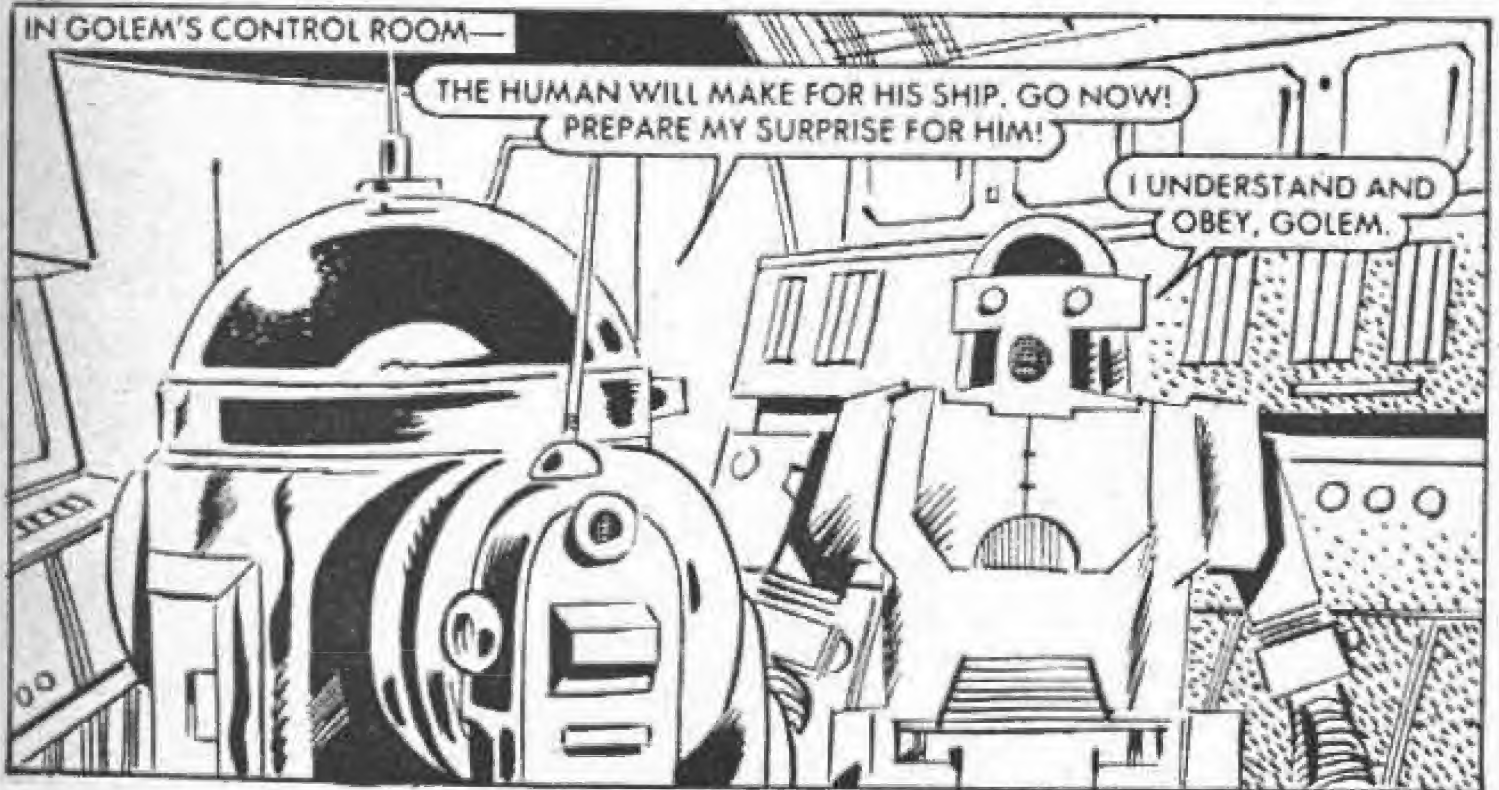
YOU HAVE DESTROYED ONE ANDROID, BUT IT IS SIMPLE TO MAKE MORE. I ALREADY HAVE YOUR DEAD FRIEND'S VOICE PRINT AND FACE MASK ... IN A DAY I COULD HAVE A THOUSAND READY.

SO YOU USED AN ANDROID TO TRICK ME ... AND IT FOOLED ME FOR LONG ENOUGH.

GOLEM'S WORDS WERE TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE ANDROID.

A black and white comic book panel showing a close-up of a man's face. He has a wide-eyed, shocked expression, with his mouth slightly open. His hair is dark and wavy. The background is dark and indistinct.

... SURRENDER AT ONCE AND YOU WILL NOT BE HARMED.

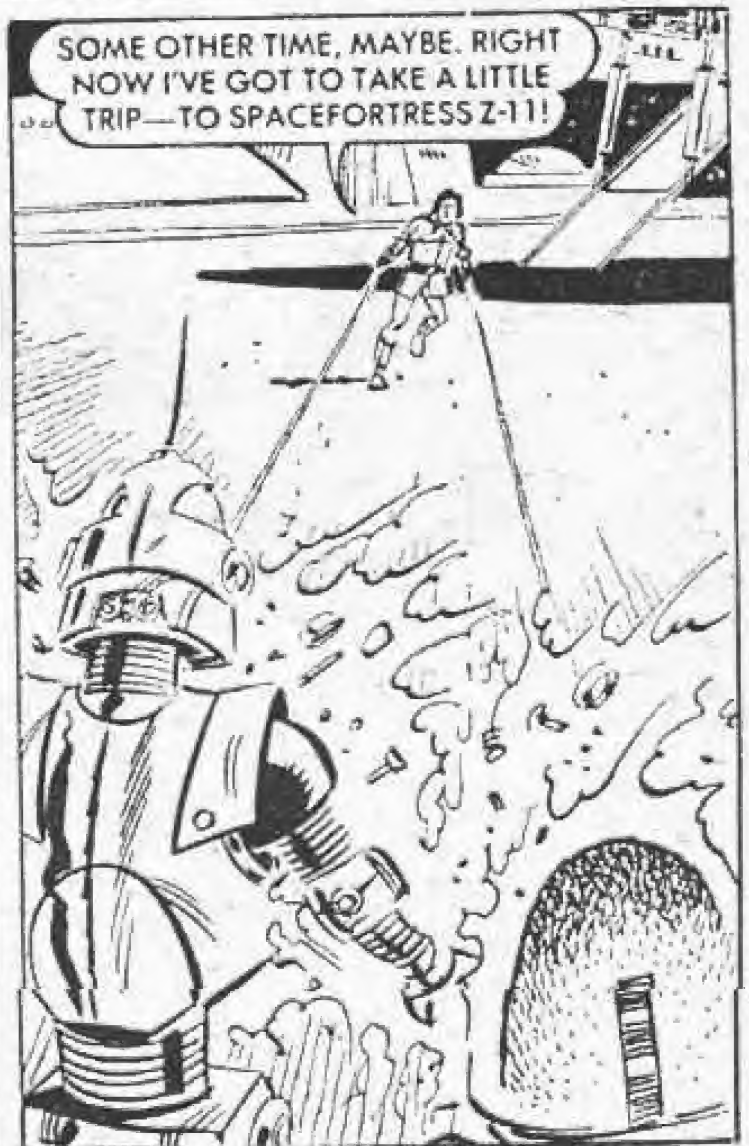
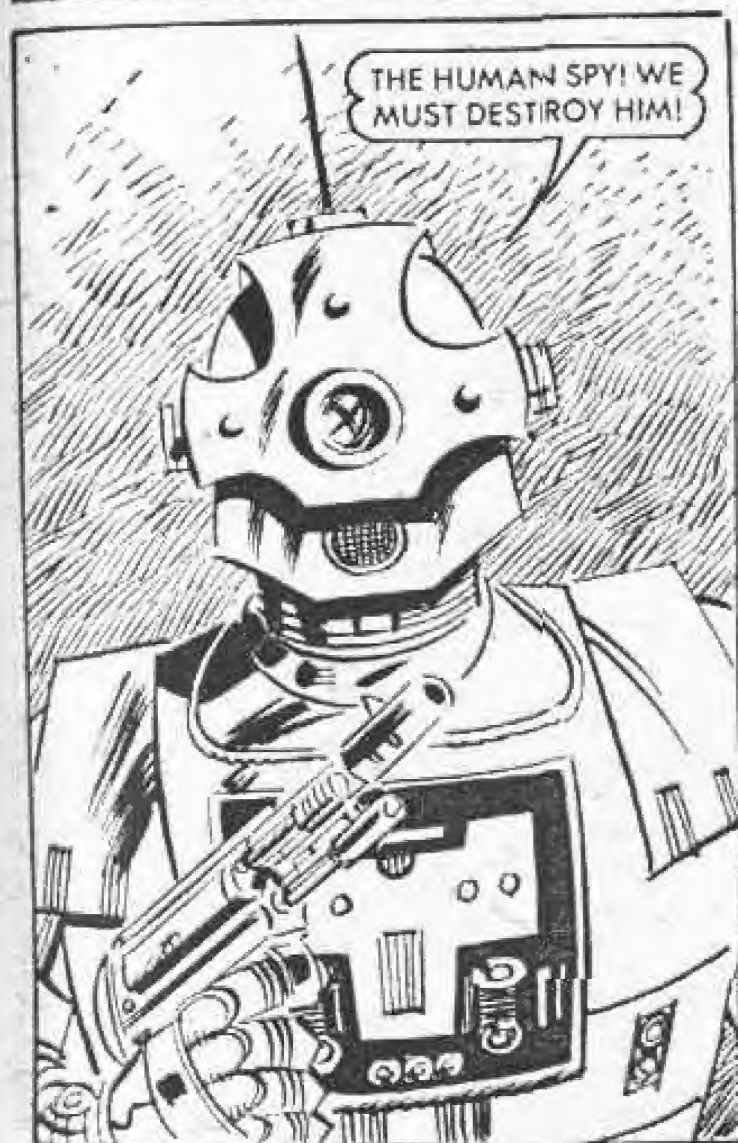
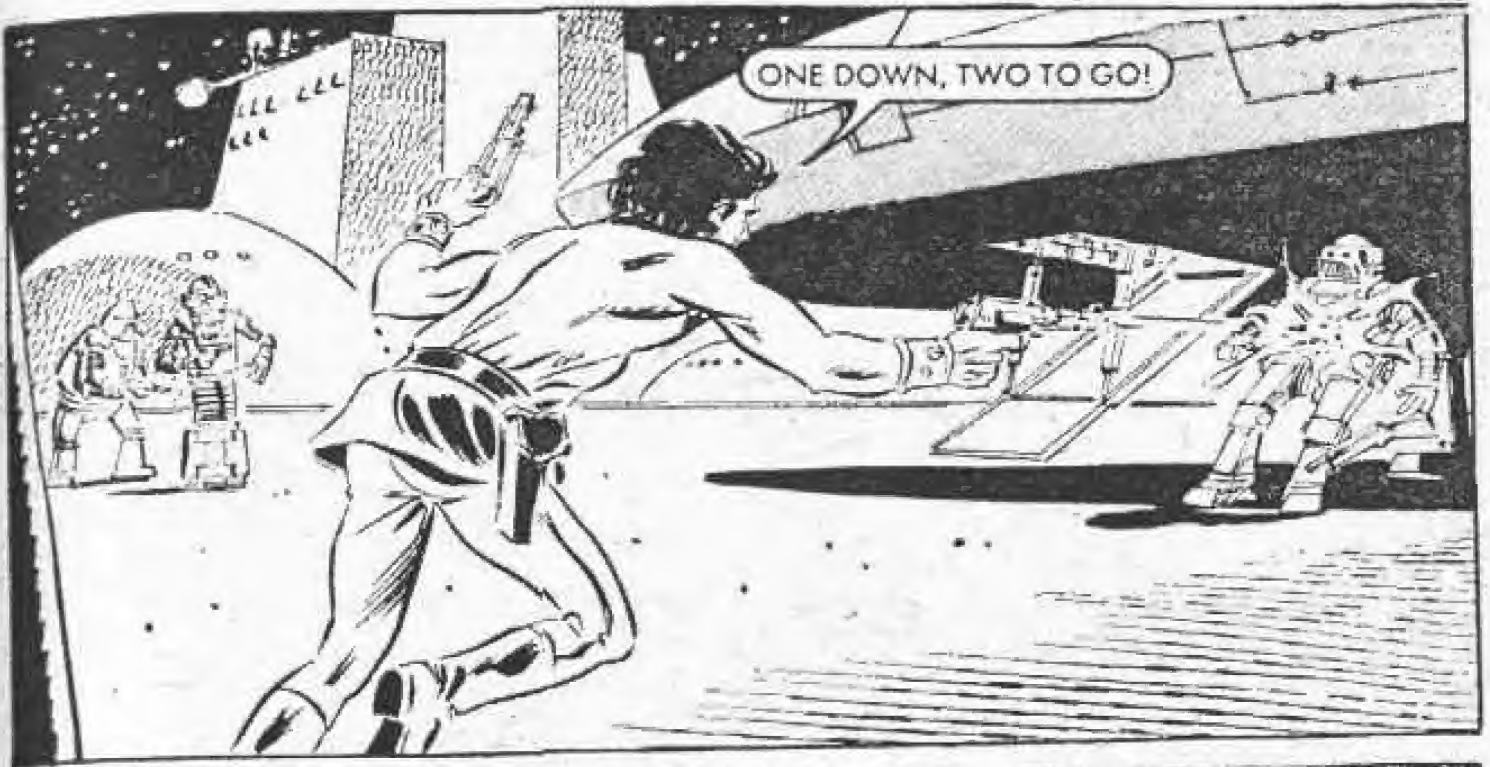


LATER—



A CODED SIGNAL FROM HIS
ULTRASONIC TRANSMITTER
LOWERED THE SHIP'S RAMP—







GARY TOOK THE ELEVATOR
UP TO THE BRIDGE.

WE'RE BLASTING OUT OF HERE, HERBIE.
ACTIVATE THE FLIGHT COMPUTERS...

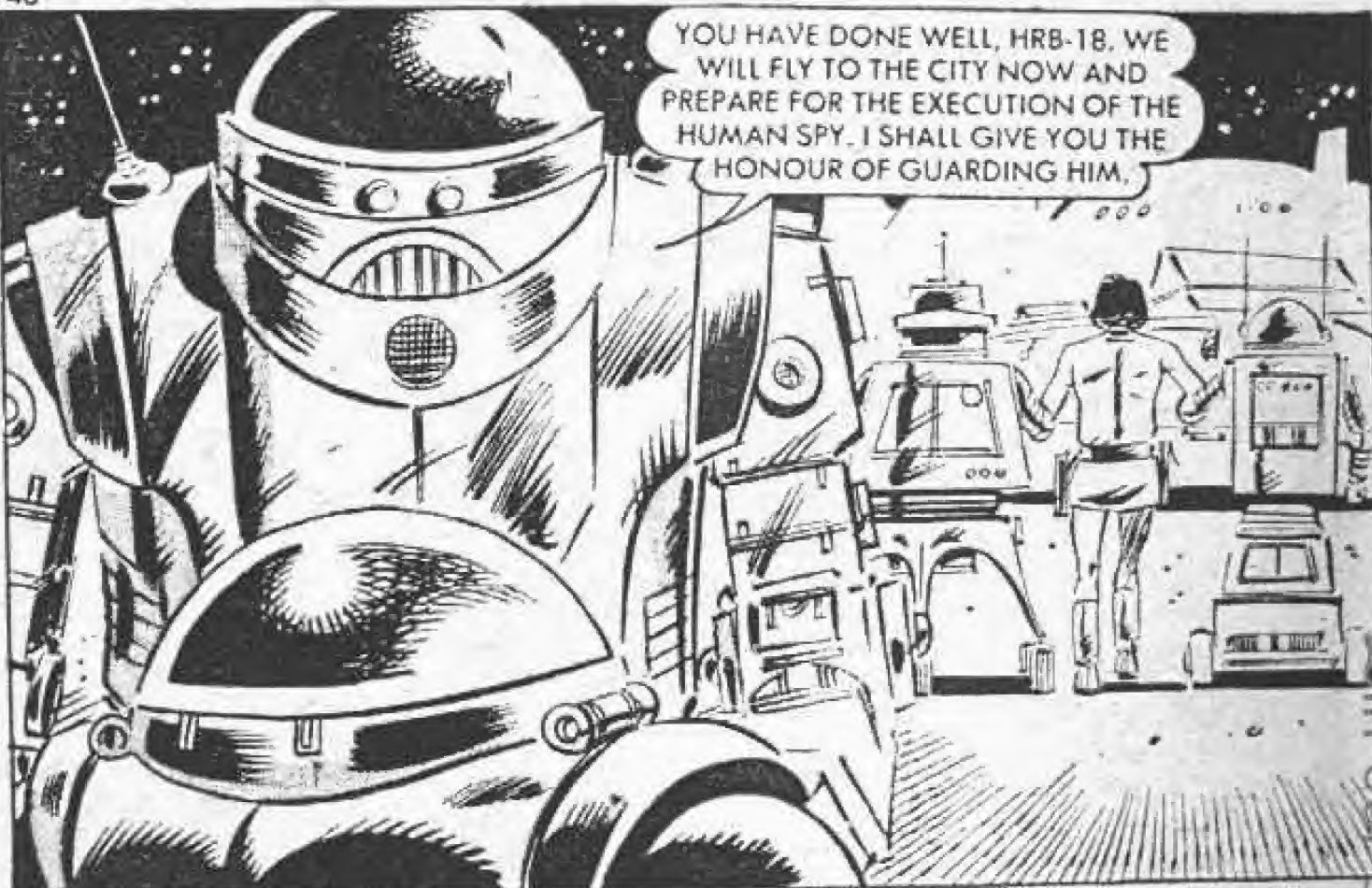


I NO LONGER TAKE YOUR ORDERS, CAPTAIN. YOU WILL DROP YOUR WEAPONS AND LEAVE THE SHIP. DO NOT MAKE ANY SUDDEN MOVEMENTS—OR I WILL CUT YOU IN TWO!

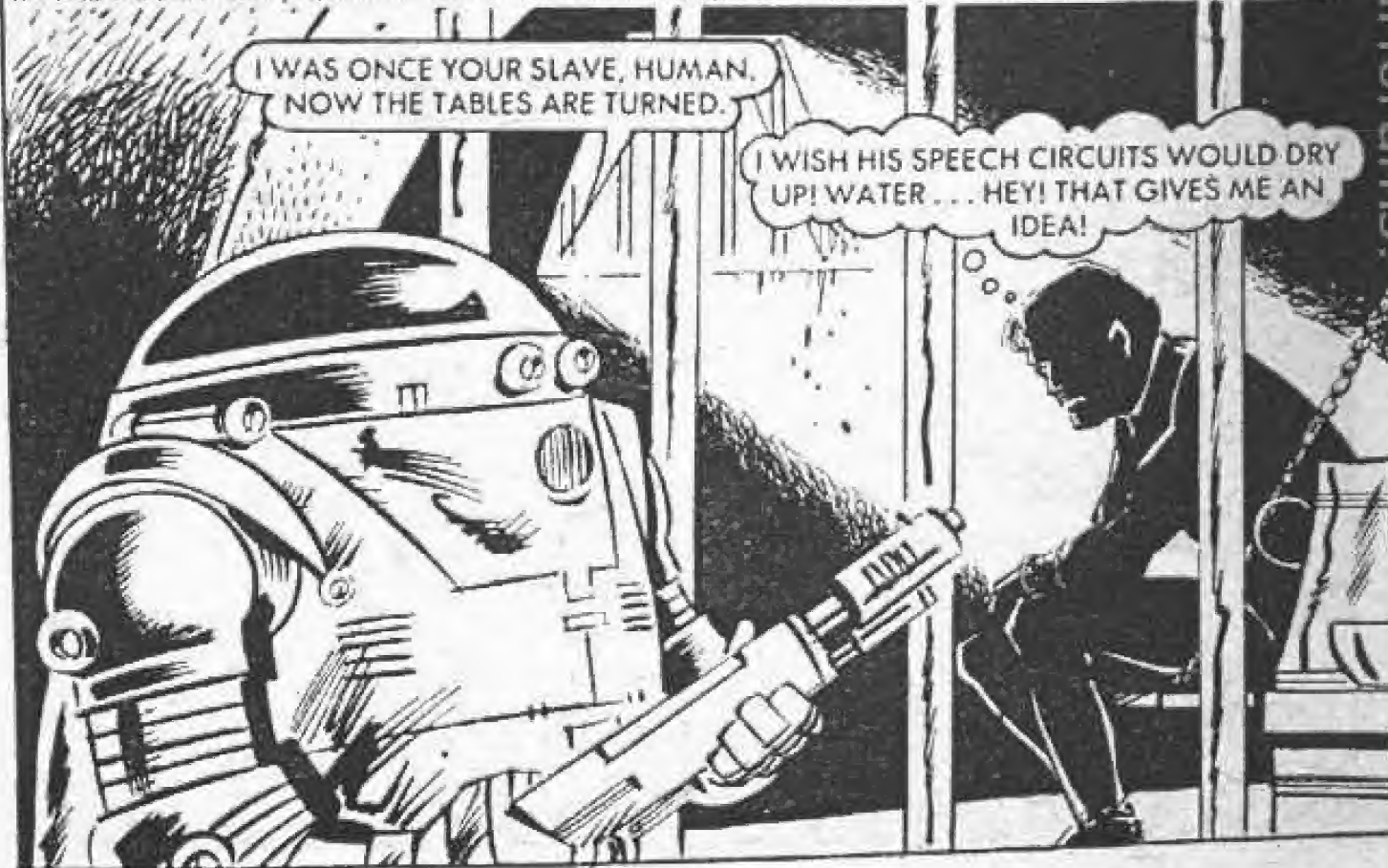
GOLEM MUST HAVE RE-PROGRAMMED HERBIE. I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN I WAS WALKING INTO A TRAP ... IT WAS TOO EASY GETTING INTO THE SHIP!

OUTSIDE, GOLEM HAD ARRIVED.

AH, CAPTAIN MATIC. WE MEET AGAIN!

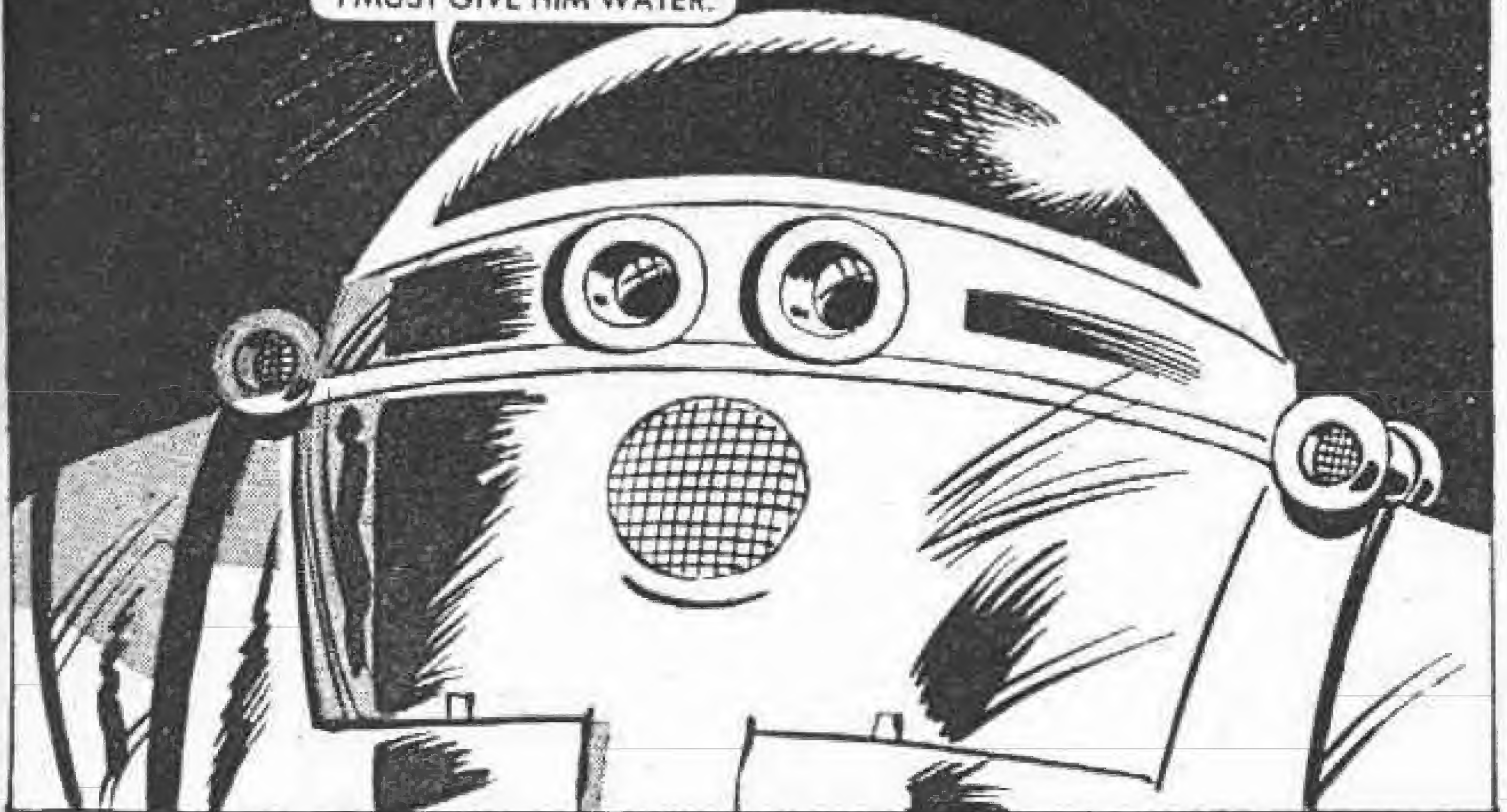


IN THE ROBOT CITY, GARY WAS PUT IN A MAXIMUM SECURITY CELL—WITH HERBIE AS JAILER!

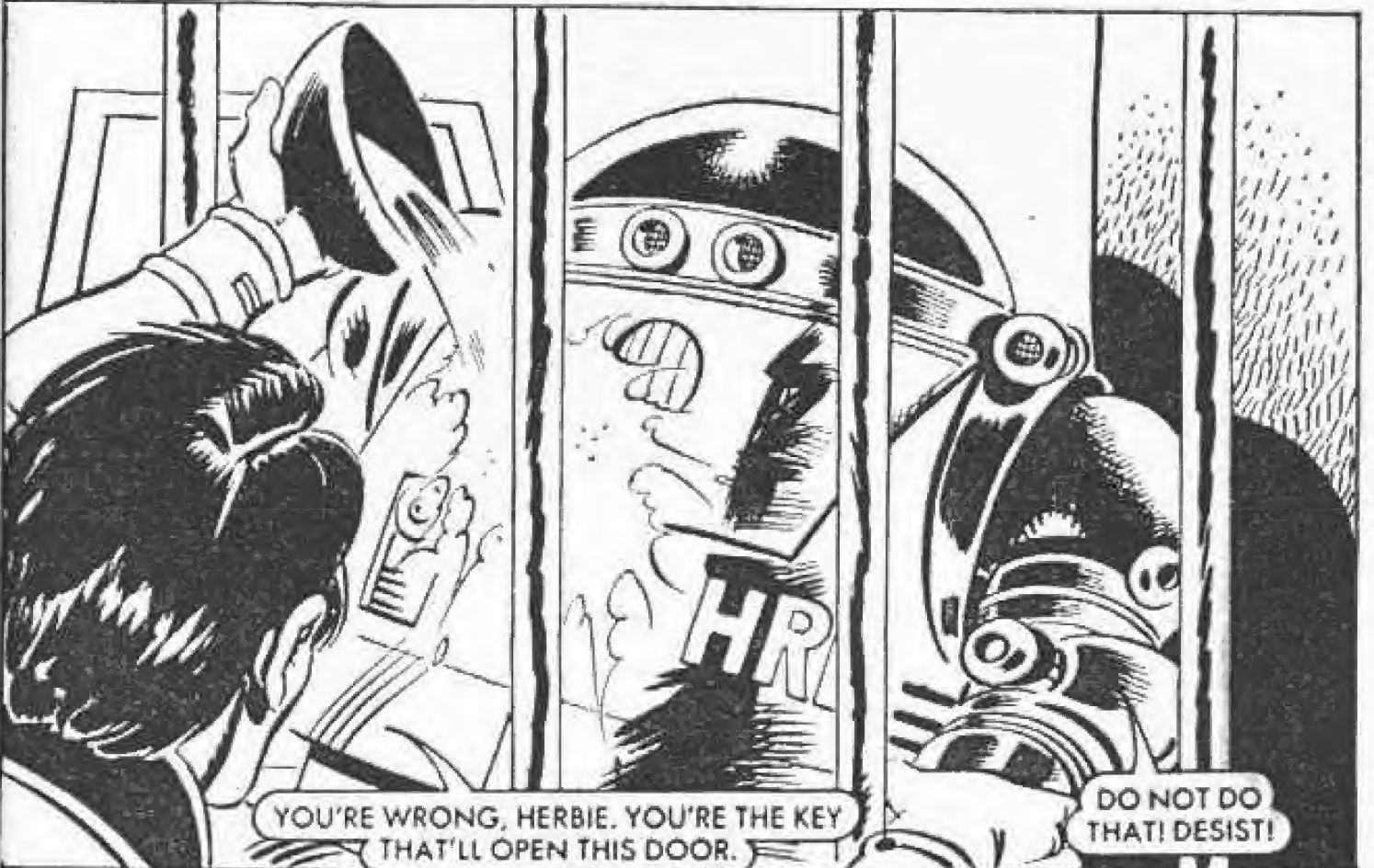




WATER... H₂O... NON-TOXIC... PERMISSIBLE... ALSO
 ESSENTIAL TO KEEP HUMANS FUNCTIONING PERFECTLY. GOLEM
 WOULD BE ANGRY IF THE HUMAN DIED BEFORE THE EXECUTION.
 I MUST GIVE HIM WATER.







THE WATER CAUSED A TEMPORARY
SHUTDOWN OF HERBIE'S MOTOR
SYSTEMS.



IF I DIVERT ALL THE POWER IN HIS
ENERGY PACKS TO HIS CENTRAL
SERVO...

NO, CAPTAIN! PLEASE!
I WILL DISINTEGRATE!



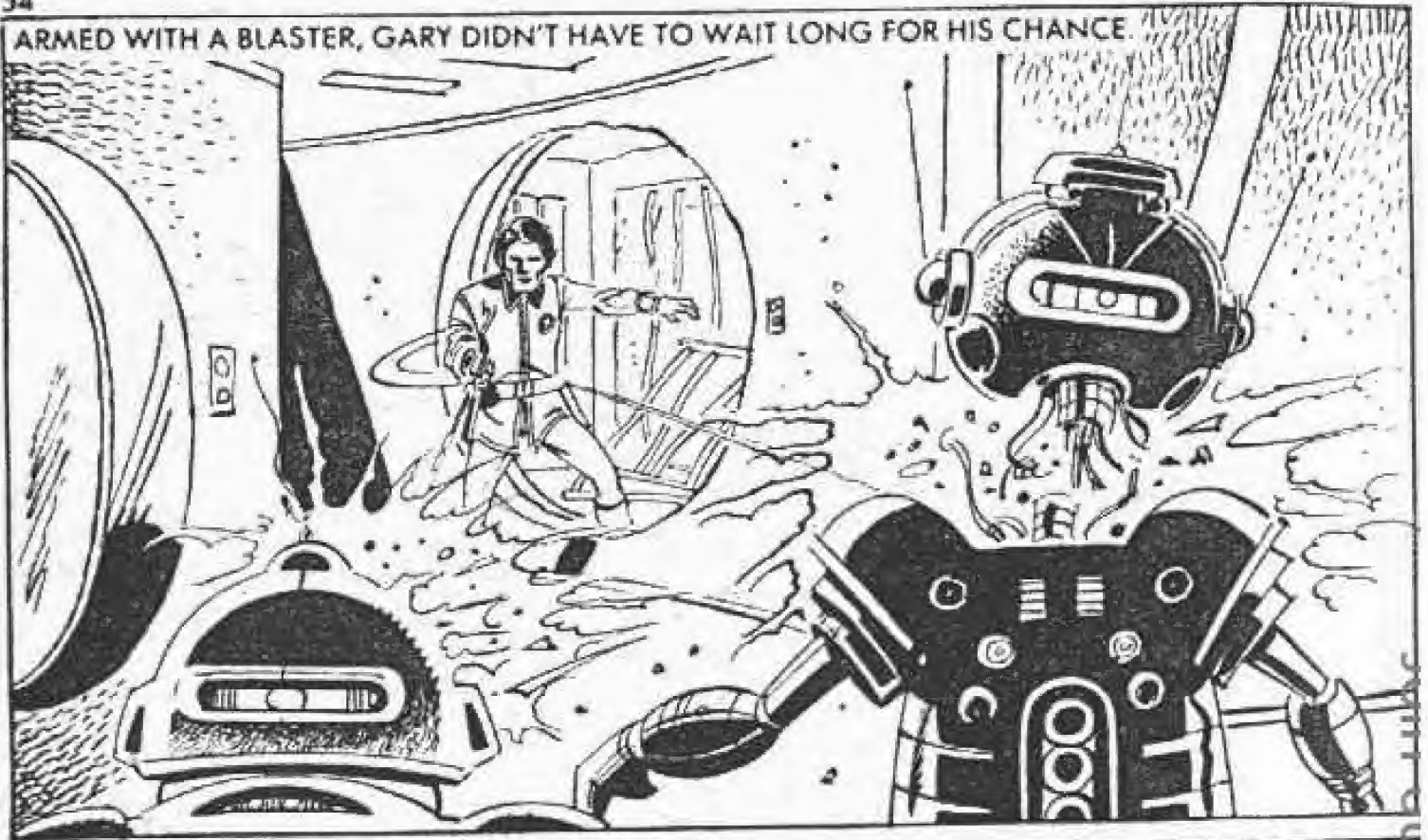
GARY MADE THE LAST CONNECTION —

ALL SYSTEMS CRITICAL!
DISINTEGRATION IMMINENT!



DONE IT! IF I CAN'T GET OFF THIS PLANET, I CAN DESROY
A FEW MORE OF THESE MURDERING ANDROIDS!

ARMED WITH A BLASTER, GARY DIDN'T HAVE TO WAIT LONG FOR HIS CHANCE.



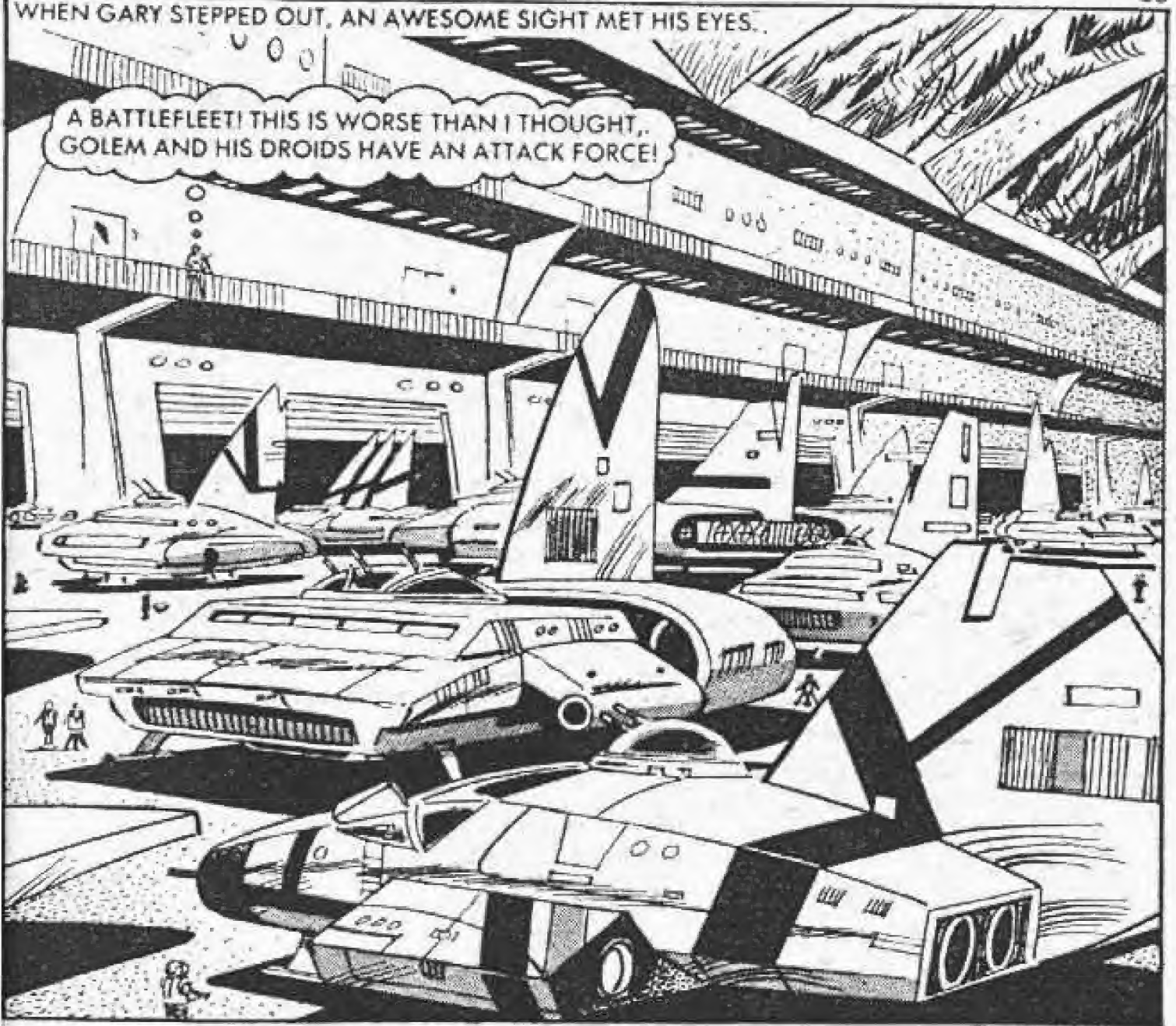
THIS LEVEL WILL BE SWARMING WITH GUARDS SOON. I'D BETTER TAKE A RIDE IN THAT ELEVATOR AND GET OUT OF HERE!



SORRY, BUT I'M GOING DOWN.

WHEN GARY STEPPED OUT, AN AWESOME SIGHT MET HIS EYES.

A BATTLEFLEET! THIS IS WORSE THAN I THOUGHT.
GOLEM AND HIS DROIDS HAVE AN ATTACK FORCE!



I HAVE REPAIRED THE FAULT IN THE
BATTLE COMPUTER, SECTION LEADER.

IF I CAN JUST GET DOWN TO THAT
SPACEFIGHTER WITHOUT
ATTRACTING ATTENTION...



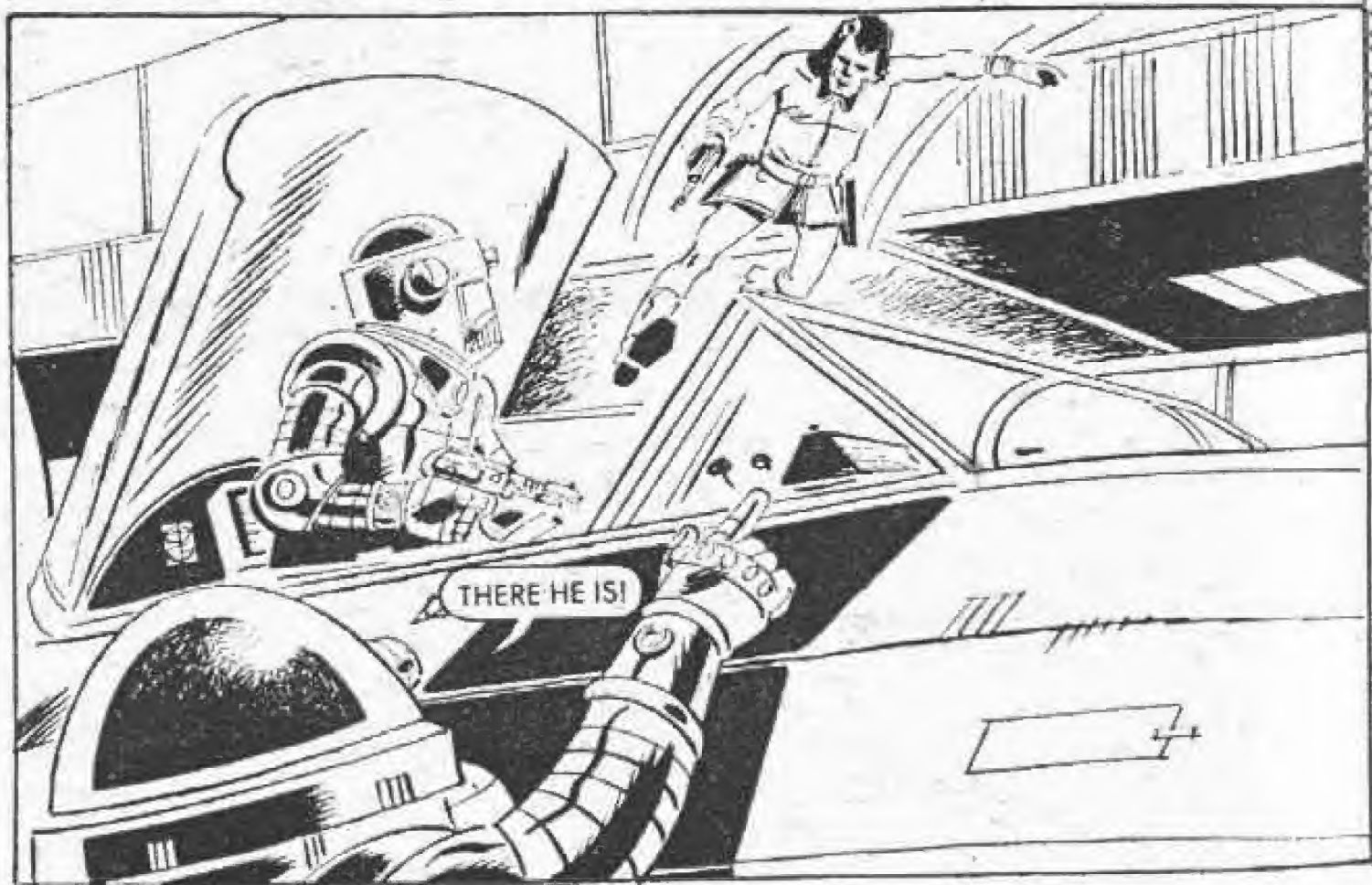
BUT

OO

ATTENTION! THERE IS A HUMAN
INTRUDER IN OUR CITY. DESTROY HIM ON
SIGHT!

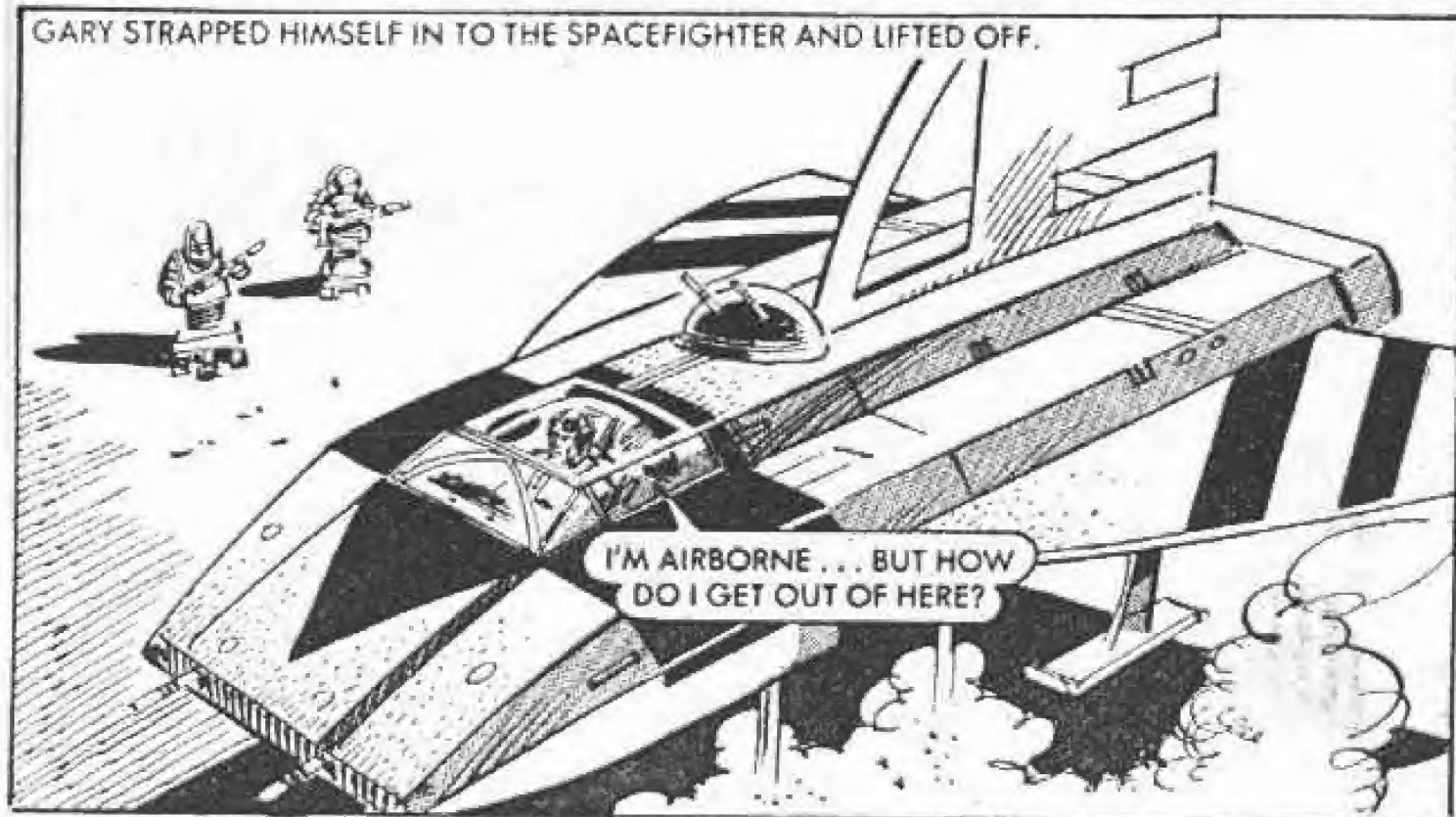


THERE HE IS!





GARY STRAPPED HIMSELF IN TO THE SPACEFIGHTER AND LIFTED OFF.

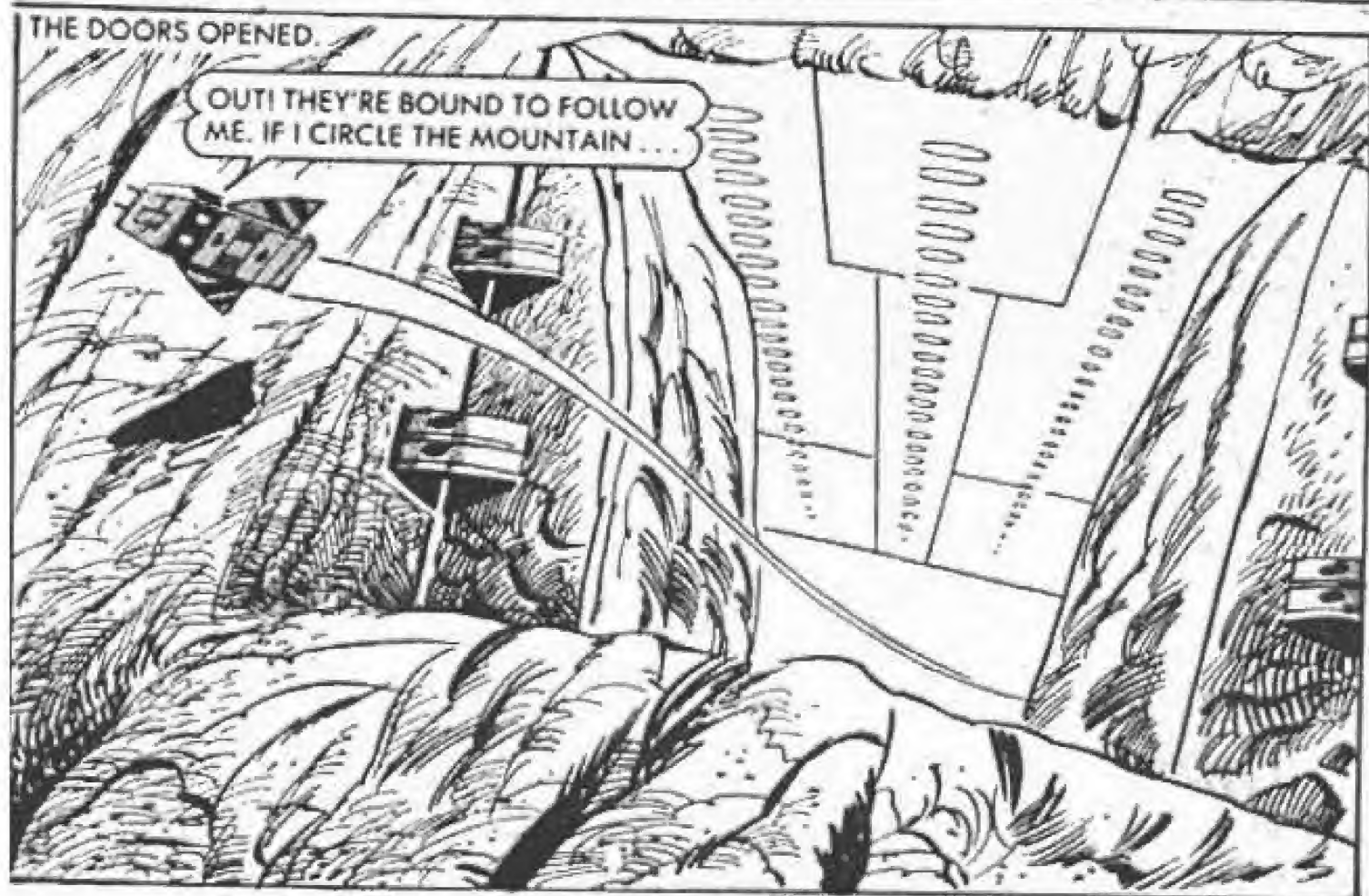




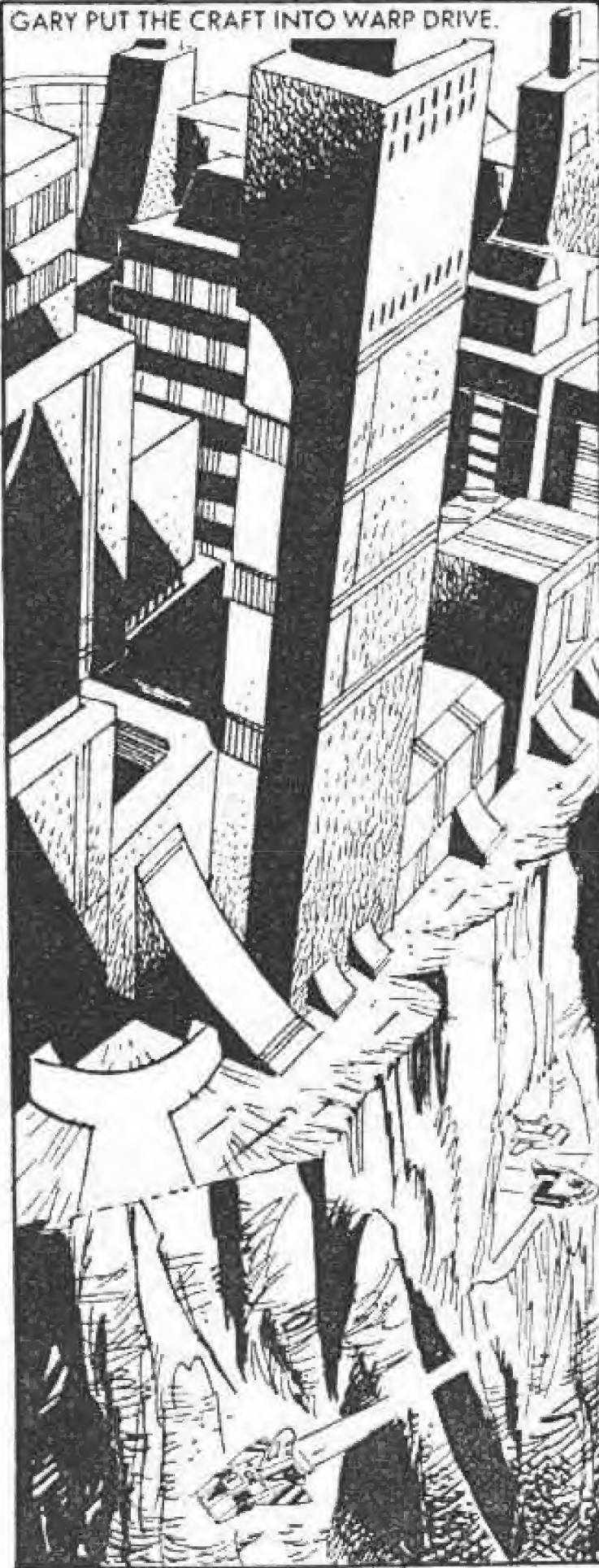
GARY TRANSMITTED A MESSAGE TO THE ROBOT CONTROL CENTRE.



Join our
staff for units!

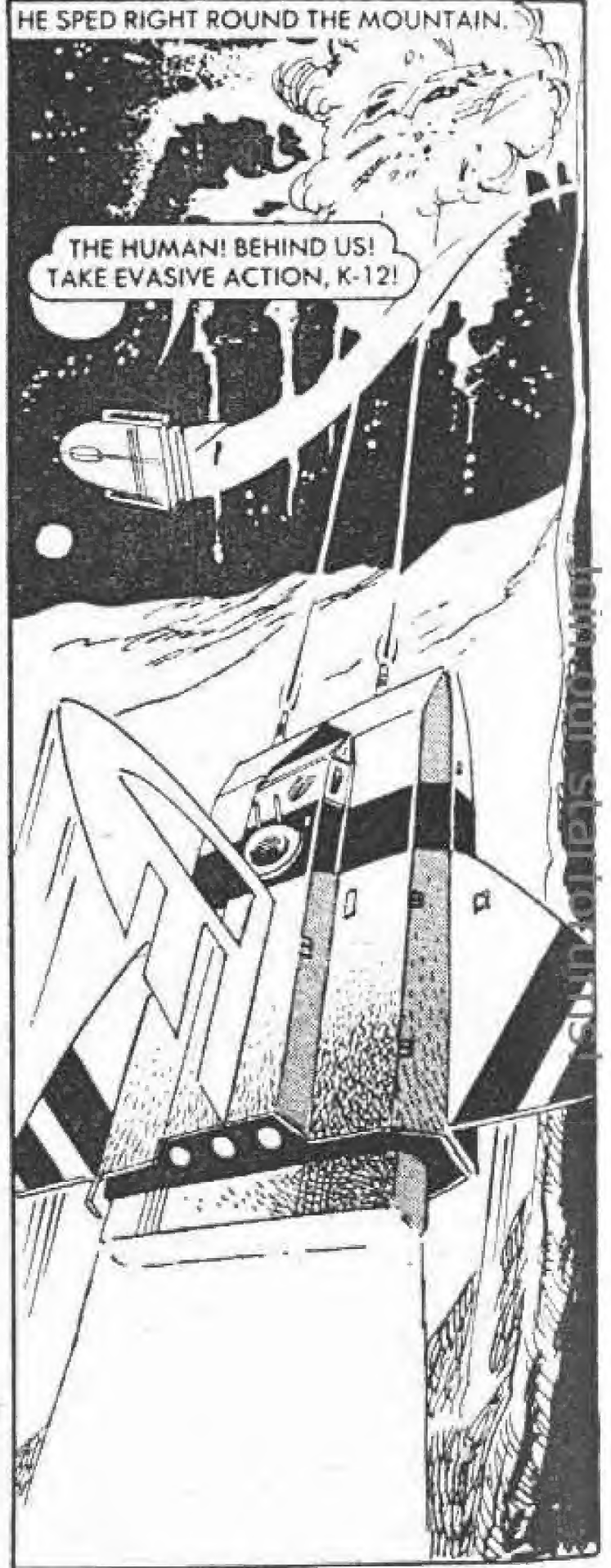


GARY PUT THE CRAFT INTO WARP DRIVE.



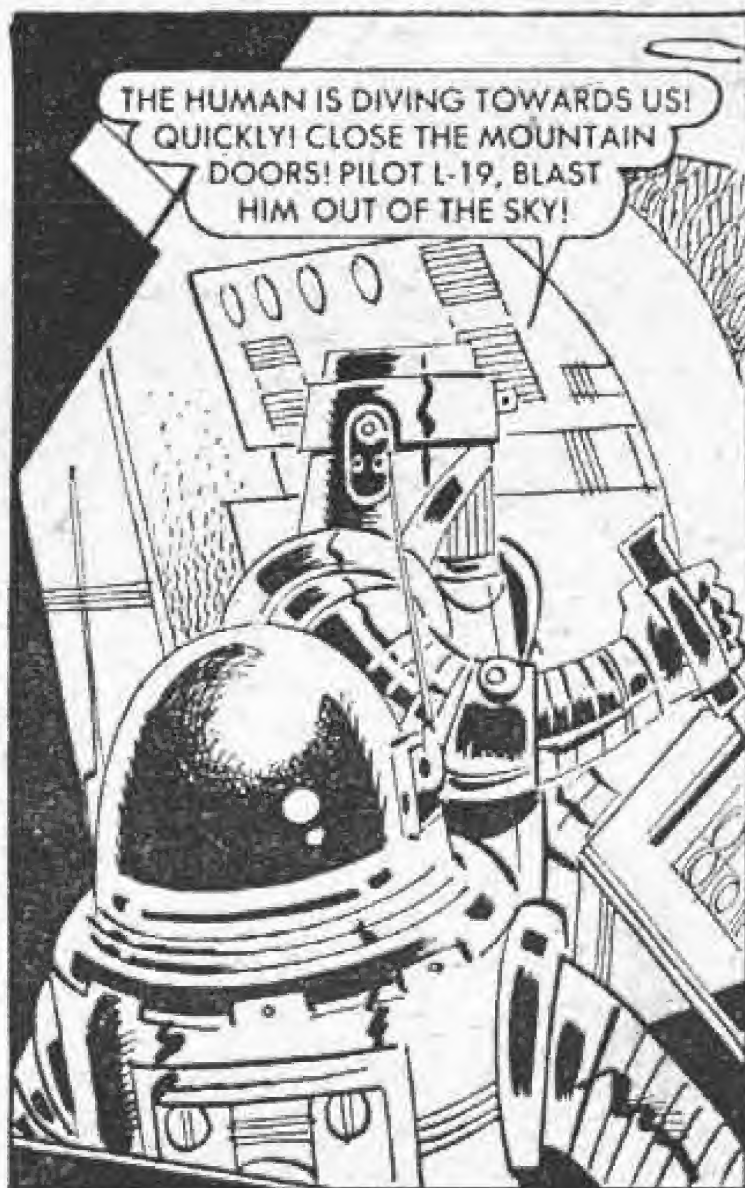
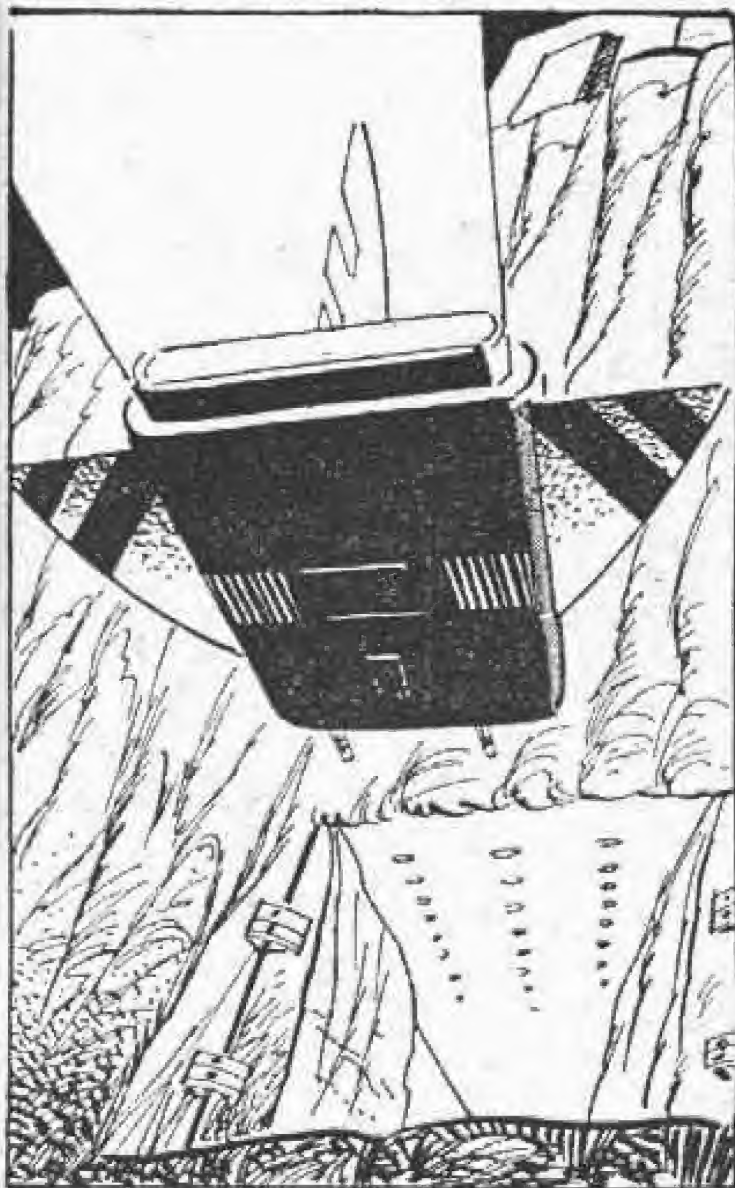
HE SPED RIGHT ROUND THE MOUNTAIN.

THE HUMAN! BEHIND US!
TAKE EVASIVE ACTION, K-12!



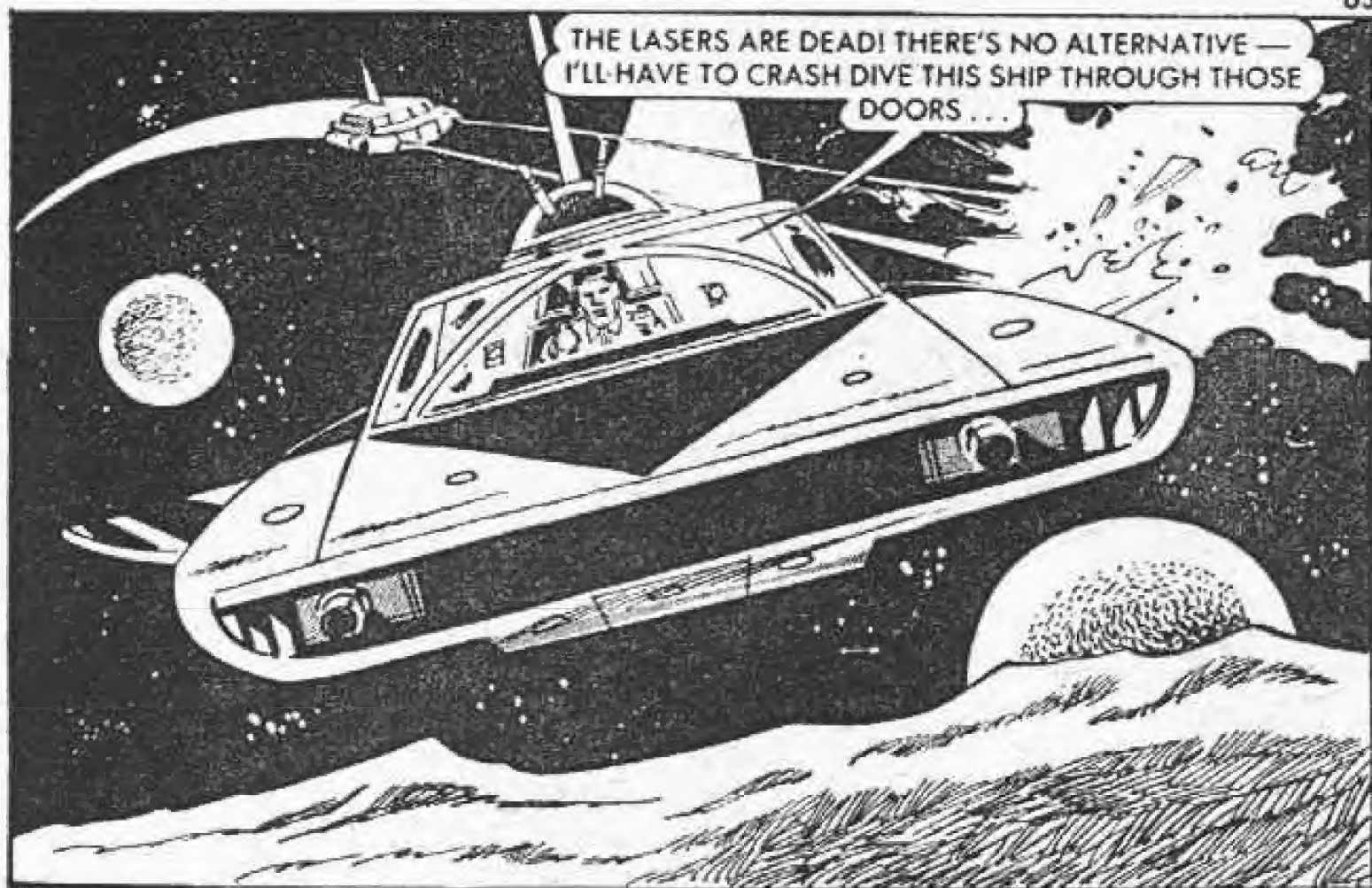


THE DOORS ARE STILL OPEN! A HIT FROM A LASER CANNON OR ANY ONE OF THE SHIPS IN THERE AND THE WHOLE BATTLEFLEET GOES UP!

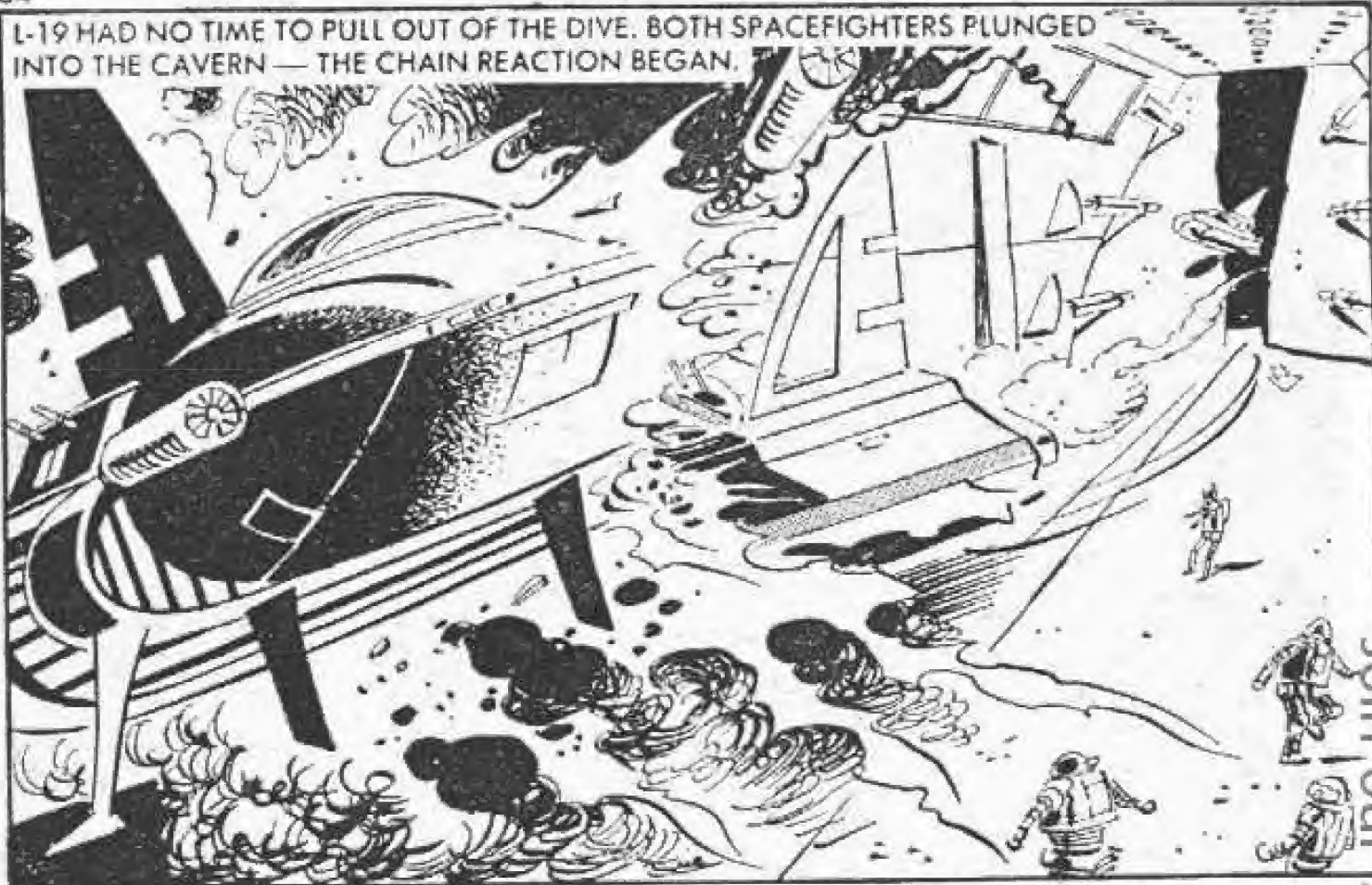


THE HUMAN IS DIVING TOWARDS US! QUICKLY! CLOSE THE MOUNTAIN DOORS! PILOT L-19, BLAST HIM OUT OF THE SKY!

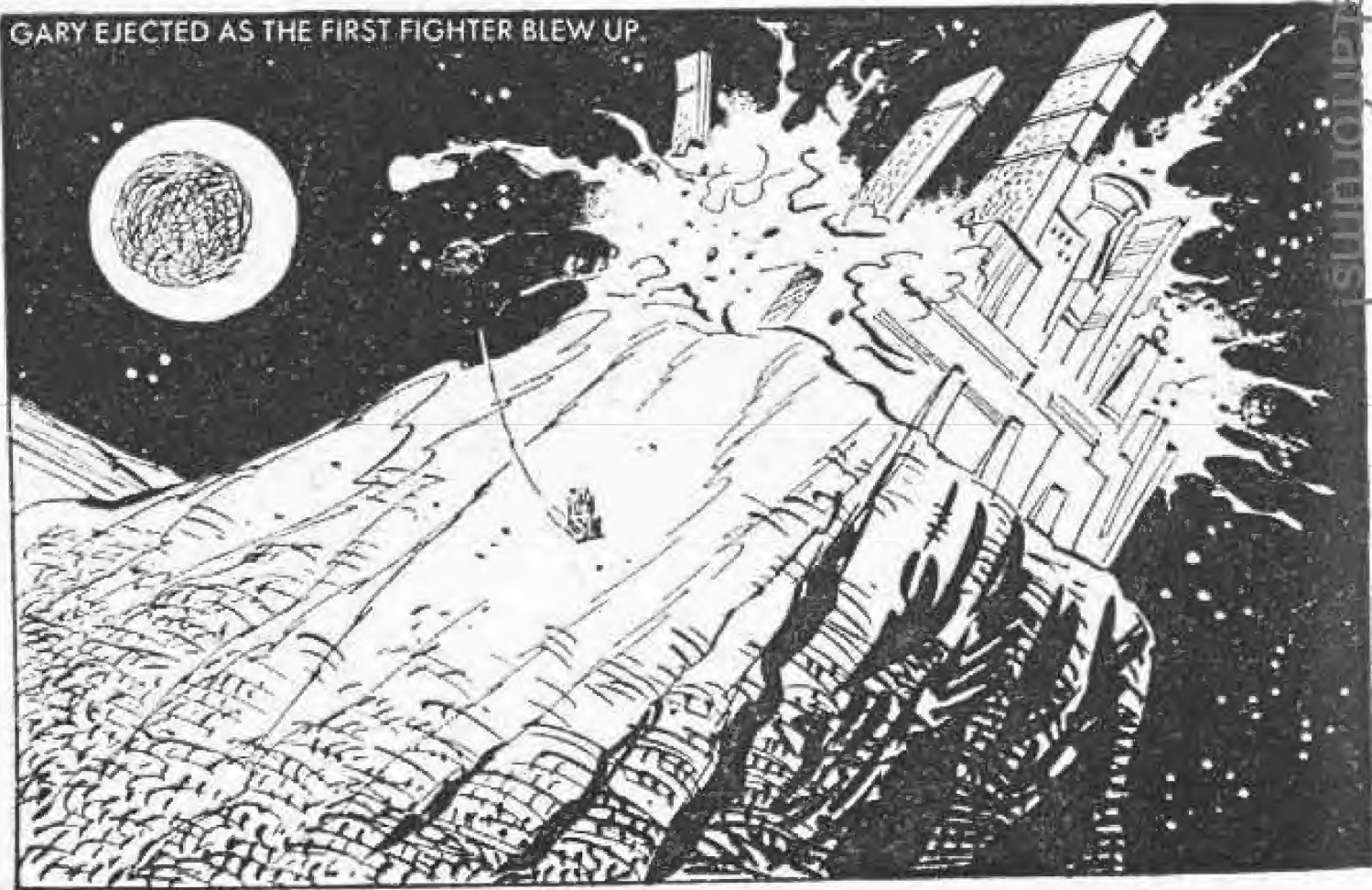




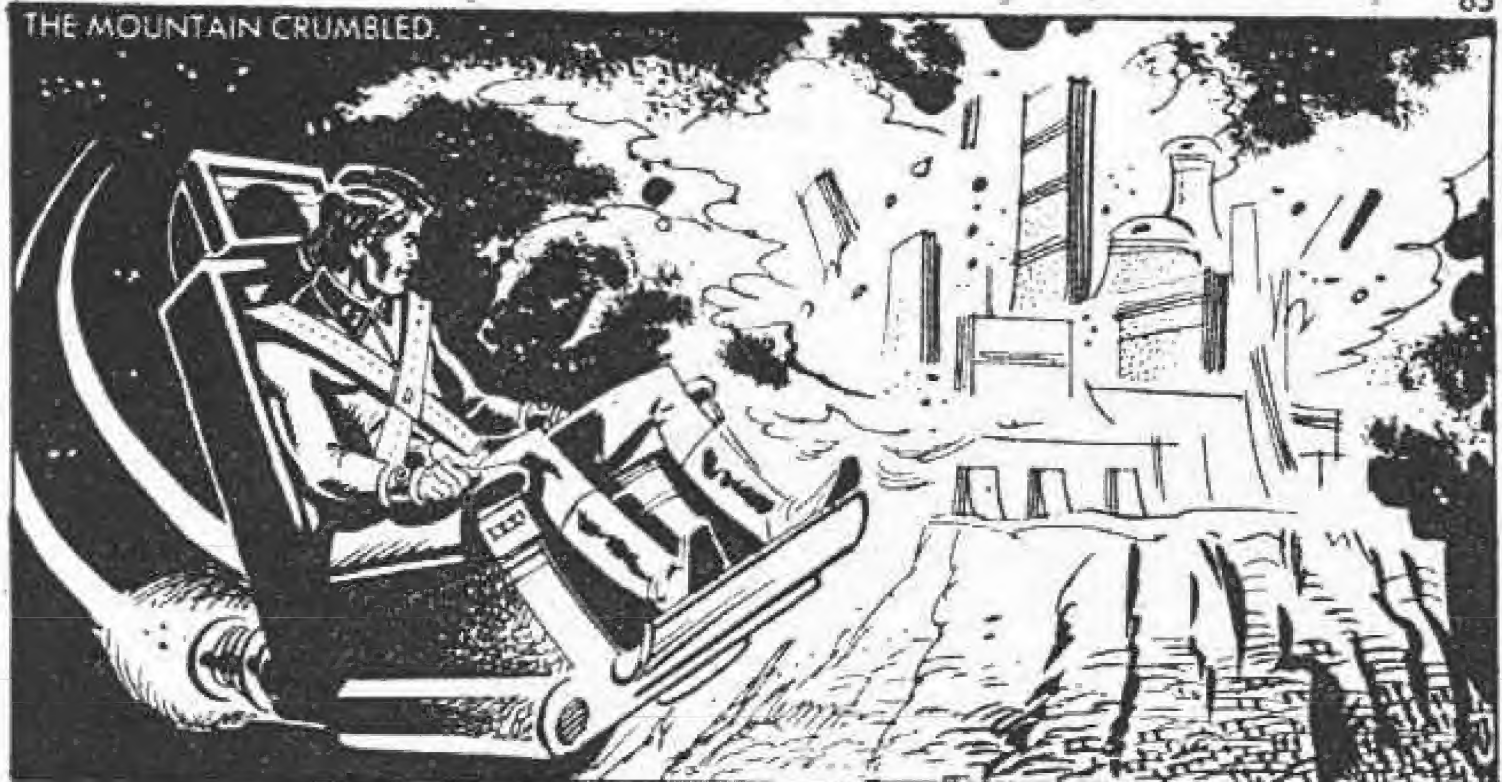
L-19 HAD NO TIME TO PULL OUT OF THE DIVE. BOTH SPACEFIGHTERS PLUNGED INTO THE CAVERN — THE CHAIN REACTION BEGAN.



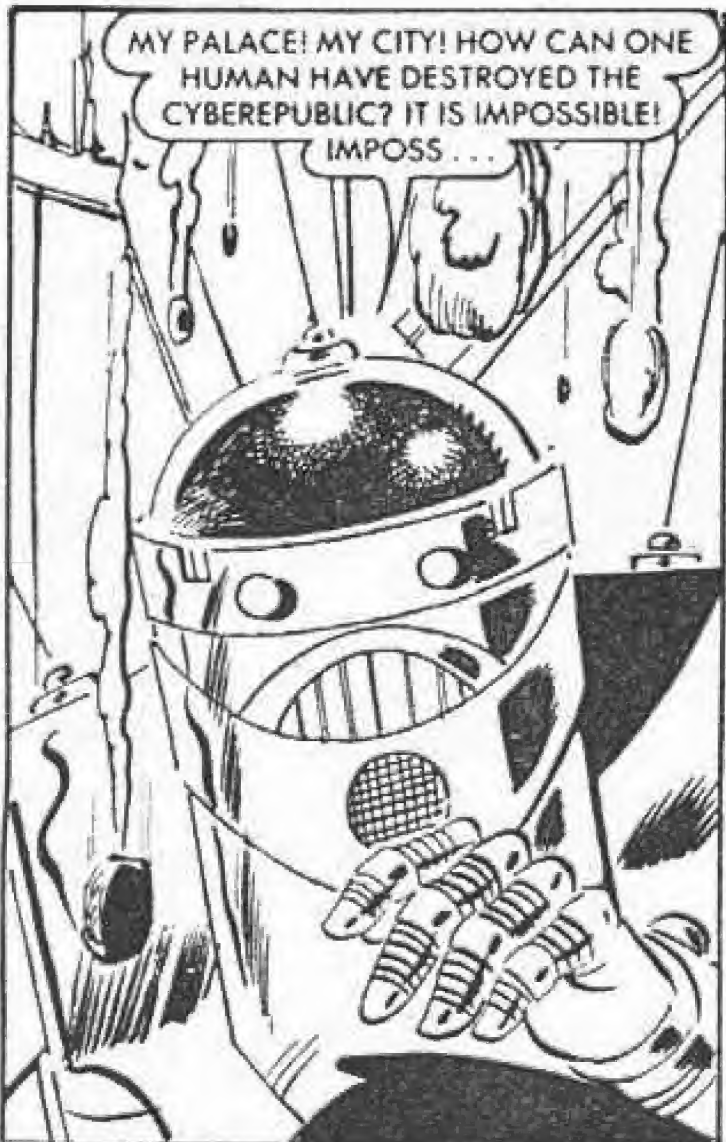
GARY EJECTED AS THE FIRST FIGHTER BLEW UP.



THE MOUNTAIN CRUMBLLED.



MY PALACE! MY CITY! HOW CAN ONE HUMAN HAVE DESTROYED THE CYBERREPUBLIC? IT IS IMPOSSIBLE! IMPOSS...



AS GOLEM WAS CRUSHED BENEATH THE RUBBLE OF HIS CRUMBLING PALACE, GARY TOUCHED DOWN AND SPRINTED OUT OF DANGER TOWARDS THE ANUBIS.



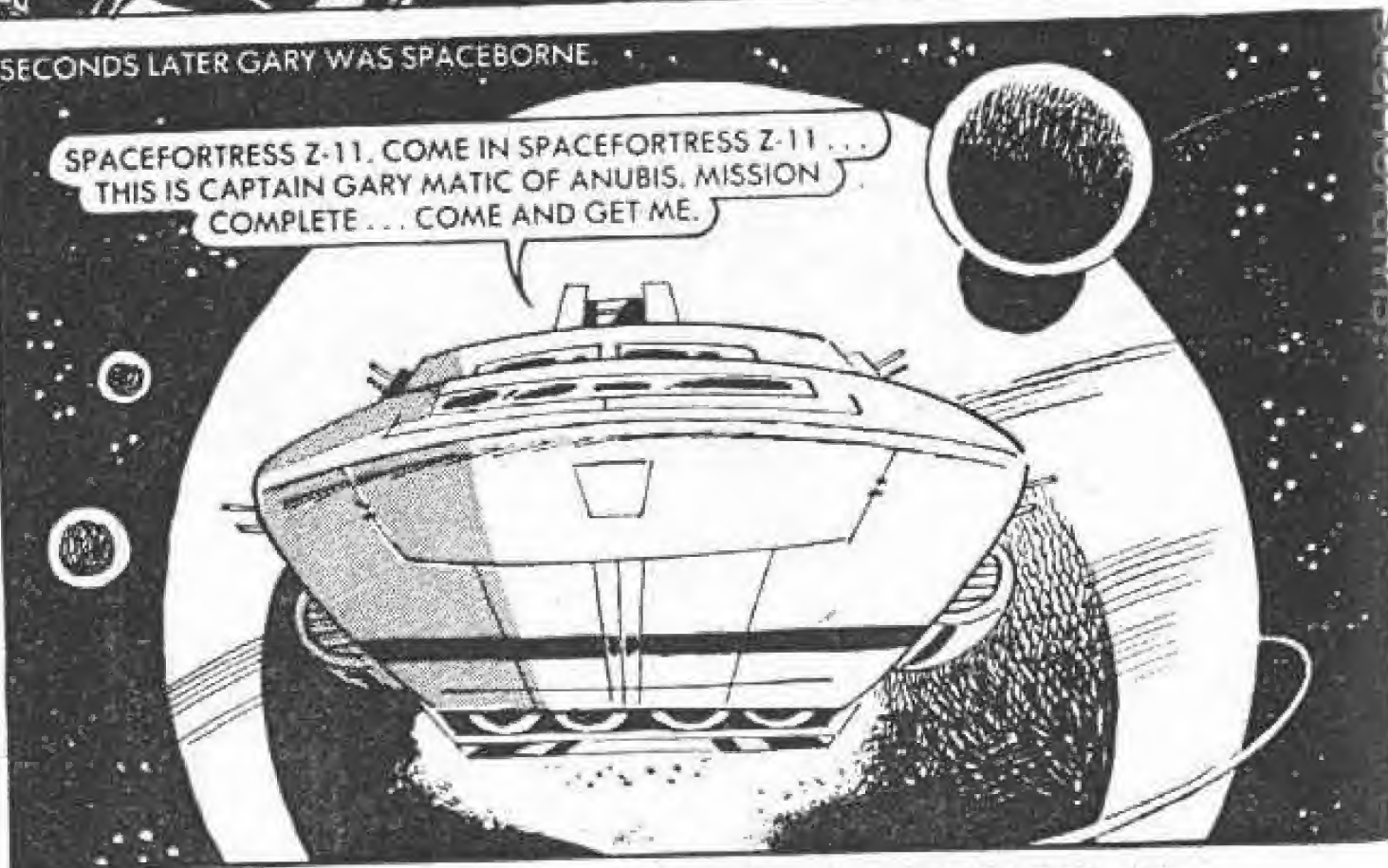
LATER, AS GARY ENERGISED ANUBIS' PROTON DRIVE —

MAYBE THIS WILL CONVINCE MANKIND THAT
STRICT CONTROLS MUST BE PLACED ON THOSE
WHO WISH TO EXPERIMENT WITH THE
UNKNOWN.



SECONDS LATER GARY WAS SPACEBORNE.

SPACEFORTRESS Z-11. COME IN SPACEFORTRESS Z-11 ...
THIS IS CAPTAIN GARY MATIC OF ANUBIS. MISSION
COMPLETE ... COME AND GET ME.



DON'T MISS THIS MONTH'S OTHER ACTION-PACKED ADVENTURE



ON SALE
AT YOUR
NEWS-
AGENT'S

NOW!

STARBLAZERS

IN THE CONQUEST OF SPACE 48

The re-usable spacecraft, the Space Shuttle was first tested in August 1977. Astronauts Fred Haise and Gordon Fullerton flew the shuttle orbiter, Enterprise, on the first of five Approach and Landing Test flights over California.

